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(54) SCREENING METHODS USING NOVEL BT TOXIN RECEPTORS FROM LEPIDOPTERAN INSECTS

(75) Inventors: Ronald D. Flannagan, Grimes, IA (US);

Terry EuClaire Meyer, Urbandale, IA

(US)

(73) Assignee: Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.,

Des Moines, IA (US)

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- (62) Division of application No. 11/192,967, filed on Jul. 29, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,572,889, which is a division of application No. 09/715,909, filed on Nov. 17, 2000, now Pat. No. 7,060,491.
- (60) Provisional application No. 60/234,099, filed on Sep. 21, 2000, provisional application No. 60/166,285, filed on Nov. 18, 1999.
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(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Robert C Hayes
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Alston & Bird LLP

(57) ABSTRACT

The invention relates to Bt toxin resistance management. The invention particularly relates to the isolation and characterization of nucleic acid and polypeptides for a novel Bt toxin receptor. The nucleic acid and polypeptides are useful in identifying and designing novel Bt toxin receptor ligands including novel insecticidal toxins.

3 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

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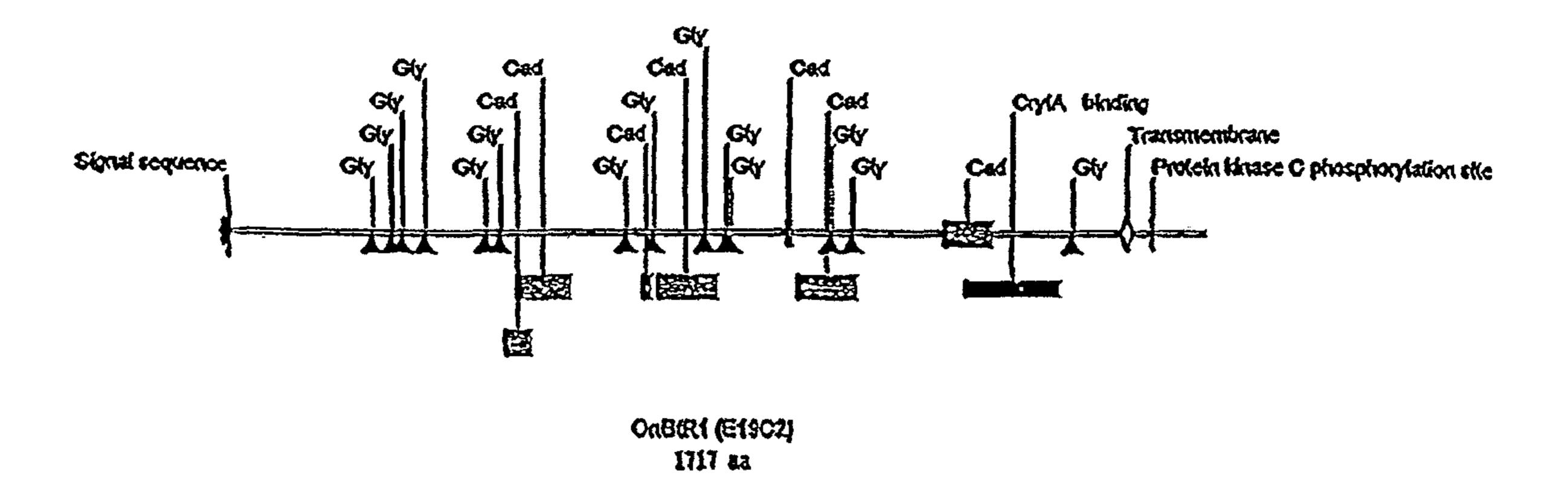
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Gly = putative glycosilation sites

Cad = cadherin-like domain

SCREENING METHODS USING NOVEL BT TOXIN RECEPTORS FROM LEPIDOPTERAN INSECTS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Utility application Ser. No. 11/192,967, filed Jul. 29, 2005, which is a divisional application of U.S. Utility application Ser. No. 09/715,909, filed Nov. 17, 2000, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,060, 491, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/234,099, filed Sep. 21, 2000 and U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/166,285, filed Nov. 18, 1999, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference in 15 their entirety.

REFERENCE TO A SEQUENCE LISTING SUBMITTED AS TEXT FILE VIA EFS-WEB

The official copy of the sequence listing is submitted concurrently with the specification as a text file via EFS-Web, in compliance with the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII), with a file name of 369837SequenceListing.txt, a creation date of Mar. 24, 2009, and a size of 110 KB. The sequence listing filed via EFS-Web is part of the specification and is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The field of the invention is manipulating Bt toxin susceptibility in plant pests. The field of the invention relates to the isolation and characterization of nucleic acid and polypeptides for a novel Bt toxin receptor. The nucleic acid and 35 polypeptides are useful in developing new insecticides.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Traditionally, growers used chemical pesticides as a means 40 to control agronomically important pests. The introduction of transgenic plants carrying the delta-endotoxin from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) afforded a non-chemical method of control. Bt toxins have traditionally been categorized by their specific toxicity towards specific insect categories. For 45 example, the Cry1 group of toxins are toxic to *Lepidoptera*. The Cry1 group includes, but is not limited to, Cry1A(a), Cry1A(b) and Cry1A(c). See Hofte et al (1989) *Microbiol Rev* 53: 242-255.

Lepidopteran insects cause considerable damage to maize 50 crops throughout North America and the world. One of the leading pests is *Ostrinia nubilalis*, commonly called the European Corn Borer (ECB). Genes encoding the crystal proteins Cry1A(b) and Cry1A(c) from Bt have been introduced into maize as a means of ECB control. These transgenic 55 maize hybrids have been effective in control of ECB. However, developed resistance to Bt toxins presents a challenge in pest control. See McGaughey et al. (1998) *Nature Biotechnology* 16: 144-146; Estruch et al. (1997) *Nature Biotechnology* 15:137-141; Roush et al. (1997) *Nature Biotechnology* 15:137-141; and Hofte et al (1989) *Microbiol Rev* 53: 242-255.

The primary site of action of Cry1 toxins is in the brush border membranes of the midgut epithelia of susceptible insect larvae such as lepidopteran insects. Cry1A toxin binding polypeptides have been characterized from a variety of 65 *Lepidopteran* species. A Cry1A(c) binding polypeptide with homology to an aminopeptidase N has been reported from

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Manduca sexta, Lymantria dispar, Helicoverpa zea and Heliothis virescens. See Knight et al (1994) Mol Micro 11: 429-436; Lee et al (1996) Appl Environ Micro 63: 2845-2849; Gill et al. (1995) J Biol. Chem 270: 27277-27282; and Garczynski et al (1991) Appl Environ Microbiol 10: 2816-2820.

Another Bt toxin binding polypeptide (BTR1) cloned from *M. sexta* has homology to the cadherin polypeptide superfamily and binds Cry1A(a), Cry1A(b) and Cry1A(c). See Vadlamudi et al. (1995) *J Biol Chem* 270(10):5490-4, Keeton et al. (1998) *Appl Environ Microbiol* 64(6):2158-2165; Keeton et al. (1997) *Appl Environ Microbiol* 63(9):3419-3425 and U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,491.

A subsequently cloned homologue to BTR1 demonstrated binding to Cry1A(a) from *Bombyx mori* as described in Ihara et al. (1998) *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Part B* 120:197-204 and Nagamatsu et al. (1998) *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.* 62(4):727-734.

Identification of the plant pest binding polypeptides for Bt toxins are useful for investigating Bt toxin-Bt toxin receptor interactions, selecting and designing improved toxins, developing novel insecticides, and new Bt toxin resistance management strategies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Compositions and methods for modulating susceptibility of a cell to Bt toxins are provided. The compositions include Bt toxin receptor polypeptides, and fragments and variants thereof, from the lepidopteran insects European corn borer (ECB, *Ostrinia nubilalis*), corn earworm (CEW, *Heliothis Zea*), and fall armyworm (FAW, *Spodoptera frugiperda*). The polypeptides bind Cry1A toxins, more particularly Cry1A (b). Nucleic acids encoding the polypeptides, antibodies specific to the polypeptides, as well as nucleic acid constructs for expressing the polypeptides in cells of interest are also provided.

The methods are useful for investigating the structurefunction relationships of Bt toxin receptors; investigating the toxin-receptor interactions; elucidating the mode of action of Bt toxins; screening and identifying novel Bt toxin receptor ligands including novel insecticidal toxins; and designing and developing novel Bt toxin receptor ligands.

The methods are useful for managing Bt toxin resistance in plant pests, and protecting plants against damage by plant pests.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 schematically depicts the location of the signal sequence, putative glycosilation sites, cadherin-like domains, transmembrane segment, Cry1A binding region and protein kinase C phosphorylation site of the Bt toxin receptor from *Ostrinia nubilalis*; the nucleotide sequence of the receptor set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the corresponding deduced amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention is directed to novel receptor polypeptides that bind Bt toxin, the receptor being derived from the order *lepidoptera*. The receptors of the invention include those receptor polypeptides that bind Bt toxin and are derived from the lepidopteran superfamily Pyraloidea and particularly from the species *Ostrinia*, specifically *Ostrinia nubilalis*; those derived from *Spodoptera frugiperda* (*S. frugiperda*);

and those derived from *Heliothus Zea* (*H. Zea*). The polypeptides have homology to members of the cadherin superfamily of proteins.

Accordingly, compositions of the invention include isolated polypeptides that are involved in Bt toxin binding. In particular, the present invention provides for isolated nucleic acid molecules comprising nucleotide sequences encoding the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, and 6; or the nucleotide sequences having the DNA sequences deposited in a plasmid in a bacterial host as Patent Deposit No. PTA-278, PTA-1760, and PTA-2222. Further provided are polypeptides having an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid molecule described herein, for example those set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, and 5; those deposited in a plasmid in a bacterial host as Patent Deposit Nos. PTA-278, PTA-1760, and PTA-2222; and fragments and variants thereof.

Plasmids containing the nucleotide sequences of the invention were deposited with the Patent Depository of the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Manassas, Va. on Jun. 25, 1999; Apr. 25, 2000; and Jul. 11, 2000; and assigned Patent Deposit Nos. PTA-278, PTA-1760, and PTA-2222. These deposits will be maintained under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the 25 Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure. These deposits were made merely as a convenience for those of skill in the art and are not an admission that a deposit is required under 35 U.S.C. §112.

The term "nucleic acid" refers to all forms of DNA such as cDNA or genomic DNA and RNA such as mRNA, as well as analogs of the DNA or RNA generated using nucleotide analogs. The nucleic acid molecules can be single stranded or double stranded. Strands can include the coding or non-coding strand.

The invention encompasses isolated or substantially purified nucleic acid or polypeptide compositions. An "isolated" or "purified" nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide, or biologically active portion thereof, is substantially free of other cellular material, or culture medium when produced by 40 recombinant techniques, or substantially free of chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized. Preferably, an "isolated" nucleic acid is free of sequences (preferably polypeptide encoding sequences) that naturally flank the nucleic acid (i.e., sequences located at the 5' and 3' 45 ends of the nucleic acid) in the genomic DNA of the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived. For example, in various embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecule can contain less than about 5 kb, 4 kb, 3 kb, 2 kb, 1 kb, 0.5 kb, or 0.1 kb of nucleotide sequences that naturally flank the nucleic 50 acid molecule in genomic DNA of the cell from which the nucleic acid is derived. A polypeptide that is substantially free of cellular material includes preparations of polypeptide having less than about 30%, 20%, 10%, 5%, (by dry weight) of contaminating polypeptide. When the polypeptide of the 55 invention or biologically active portion thereof is recombinantly produced, preferably culture medium represents less than about 30%, 20%, 10%, or 5% (by dry weight) of chemical precursors or non-polypeptide-of-interest chemicals.

It is understood, however, that there are embodiments in 60 which preparations that do not contain the substantially pure polypeptide may also be useful. Thus, less pure preparations can be useful where the contaminating material does not interfere with the specific desired use of the peptide. The compositions of the invention also encompass fragments and 65 variants of the disclosed nucleotide sequences and the polypeptides encoded thereby.

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The compositions of the invention are useful for, among other uses, expressing the receptor polypeptides in cells of interest to produce cellular or isolated preparations of the polypeptides for investigating the structure-function relationships of Bt toxin receptors; investigating the toxin-receptor interactions; elucidating the mode of action of Bt toxins; screening and identifying novel Bt toxin receptor ligands including novel insecticidal toxins; and designing and developing novel Bt toxin receptor ligands including novel insecticidal toxins.

The isolated nucleotide sequences encoding the receptor polypeptides of the invention are expressed in a cell of interest; and the Bt toxin receptor polypeptides produced by the expression is utilized in intact cell or in-vitro receptor binding assays, and/or intact cell toxicity assays. Methods and conditions for Bt toxin binding and toxicity assays are known in the art and include but are not limited to those described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,491; T. P. Keeton et al. (1998) *Appl.* Environ. Microbiol. 64(6):2158-2165; B. R. Francis et al. (1997) Insect Biochem. Mol. Biol. 27(6):541-550; T. P. Keeton et al. (1997) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 63(9):3419-3425; R. K. Vadlamudi et al. (1995) J. Biol. Chem. 270(10):5490-5494; Ihara et al. (1998) Comparative Biochem. Physiol. B 120:197-204; Nagamatsu et al. (1998) Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem. 62(4):727-734, herein incorporated by reference. Such methods could be modified by one of ordinary skill in the art to develop assays utilizing the polypeptides of the invention.

By "cell of interest" is intended any cell in which expression of the polypeptides of the invention is desired. Cells of interest include, but are not limited to mammalian, avian, insect, plant, bacteria, fungi and yeast cells. Cells of interest include but are not limited to cultured cell lines, primary cell cultures, cells in vivo, and cells of transgenic organisms.

The methods of the invention encompass using the polypeptides encoded by the nucleotide sequences of the invention in receptor binding and/or toxicity assays to screen candidate ligands and identify novel Bt toxin receptor ligands, including receptor agonists and antagonists. Candidate ligands include molecules available from diverse libraries of small molecules created by combinatorial synthetic methods. Candidate ligands also include, but are not limited to antibodies, peptides, and other small molecules designed or deduced to interact with the receptor polypeptides of the invention. Candidate ligands include but are not limited to peptide fragments of the receptor, anti-receptor antibodies, antiidiotypic antibodies mimicking one or more receptor binding domains of a toxin, fusion proteins produced by combining two or more toxins or fragments thereof, and the like. Ligands identified by the screening methods of the invention include potential novel insecticidal toxins, the insecticidal activity of which can be determined by known methods; for example, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,407, 454; U.S. application Ser. No. 09/218,942; U.S. application Ser. No. 09/003,217.

The invention provides methods for screening for ligands that bind to the polypeptides described herein. Both the polypeptides and relevant fragments thereof (for example, the toxin binding domain) can be used to screen by assay for compounds that bind to the receptor and exhibit desired binding characteristics. Desired binding characteristics include, but are not limited to binding affinity, binding site specificity, association and dissociation rates, and the like. The screening assays could be intact cell or in vitro assays which include exposing a ligand binding domain to a sample ligand and detecting the formation of a ligand-binding polypeptide com-

plex. The assays could be direct ligand-receptor binding assays or ligand competition assays.

In one embodiment, the methods comprise providing at least one Bt toxin receptor polypeptide of the invention, contacting the polypeptide with a sample and a control ligand 5 under conditions promoting binding; and determining binding characteristics of sample ligands, relative to control ligands. The methods encompass any method known to the skilled artisan which can be used to provide the polypeptides of the invention in a binding assay. For in vitro binding assays, 10 the polypeptide may be provided as isolated, lysed, or homogenized cellular preparations. Isolated polypeptides may be provided in solution, or immobilized to a matrix. Methods for immobilizing polypeptides are well known in the art, and include but are not limited to construction and use of fusion 15 polypeptides with commercially available high affinity ligands. For example, GST fusion proteins can be adsorbed onto glutathione sepharose beads (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, Mo.) or glutathione derivatized microtitre plates. The polypeptides can also be immobilized utilizing well tech- 20 niques in the art utilizing conjugation of biotin and streptavidin. The polypeptides can also be immobilized utilizing well known techniques in the art utilizing chemical conjugation (linking) of polypeptides to a matrix. Alternatively, the polypeptides may be provided in intact cell binding assays in 25 which the polypeptides are generally expressed as cell surface Bt toxin receptors.

The invention provides methods utilizing intact cell toxicity assays to screen for ligands that bind to the receptor polypeptides described herein and confer toxicity upon a cell 30 of interest expressing the polypeptide. A ligand selected by this screening is a potential insecticidal toxin to insects expressing the receptor polypeptides, particularly enterally. This deduction is premised on theories that insect specificity of a particular Bt toxin is determined by the presence of the 35 receptor in specific insect species, or that binding of the toxins is specific for the receptor of some insect species and is bind is insignificant or nonspecific for other variant receptors. See, for example Hofte et al (1989) Microbiol Rev 53: 242-255. The toxicity assays include exposing, in intact cells expressing a polypeptide of the invention, the toxin binding domain of the polypeptide to a sample ligand and detecting the toxicity effected in the cell expressing the polypeptide. By "toxicity" is intended the decreased viability of a cell. By "viability" is intended the ability of a cell to proliferate and/or 45 differentiate and/or maintain its biological characteristics in a manner characteristic of that cell in the absence of a particular cytotoxic agent.

In one embodiment, the methods of the present invention comprise providing at least one cell surface Bt toxin receptor 50 polypeptide of the invention comprising an extracellular toxin binding domain, contacting the polypeptide with a sample and a control ligand under conditions promoting binding, and determining the viability of the cell expressing the cell surface Bt toxin receptor polypeptide, relative to the 55 control ligand.

By "contacting" is intended that the sample and control agents are presented to the intended ligand binding site of the polypeptides of the invention.

By "conditions promoting binding" is intended any combination of physical and biochemical conditions that enables a ligand of the polypeptides of the invention to determinably bind the intended polypeptide over background levels. Examples of such conditions for binding of Cry1 toxins to Bt toxin receptors, as well as methods for assessing the binding, 65 are known in the art and include but are not limited to those described in Keeton et al. (1998) *Appl Environ Microbiol*

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64(6): 2158-2165; Francis et al. (1997) *Insect Biochem Mol Biol* 27(6):541-550; Keeton et al. (1997) *Appl Environ Microbiol* 63(9):3419-3425; Vadlamudi et al. (1995) *J Biol Chem* 270(10):5490-5494; Ihara et al. (1998) *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Part B* 120:197-204; and Nagamatsu et al. (1998) *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.* 62(4):727-734, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference. In this aspect of the present invention, known and commercially available methods for studying protein-protein interactions, such as yeast and/or bacterial two-hybrid systems could also be used. Two-hybrid systems are available from, for example, CLONTECH (Palo Alto, Calif.) or Display Systems Biotech Inc. (Vista, Ca).

The compositions and screening methods of the invention are useful for designing and developing novel Bt toxin receptor ligands including novel insecticidal toxins. Various candidate ligands; ligands screened and characterized for binding, toxicity, and species specificity; and/or ligands having known characteristics and specificities, could be linked or modified to produce novel ligands having particularly desired characteristics and specificities. The methods described herein for assessing binding, toxicity and insecticidal activity could be used to screen and characterize the novel ligands.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the sequences encoding the receptors of the invention, and variants and fragments thereof, are used with yeast and bacterial two-hybrid systems to screen for Bt toxins of interest (for example, more specific and/or more potent toxins), or for insect molecules that bind the receptor and can be used in developing novel insecticides.

By "linked" is intended that a covalent bond is produced between two or more molecules. Known methods that can be used for modification and/or linking of polypeptide ligands such as toxins, include but are not limited to mutagenic and recombinogenic approaches including but not limited to site-directed mutagenesis, chimeric polypeptide construction and DNA shuffling. Such methods are described in further detail below. Known polypeptide modification methods also include methods for covalent modification of polypeptides. "Operably linked" means that the linked molecules carry out the function intended by the linkage.

The compositions and screening methods of the present invention are useful for targeting ligands to cells expressing the receptor polypeptides of the invention. For targeting, secondary polypeptides, and/or small molecules which do not bind the receptor polypeptides of the invention are linked with one or more primary ligands which bind the receptor polypeptides; including but not limited to Cry1A toxin; more particularly Cry1A(b) toxin or a fragment thereof. By this linkage, any polypeptide and/or small molecule linked to a primary ligand could be targeted to the receptor polypeptide, and thereby to a cell expressing the receptor polypeptide; wherein the ligand binding site is available at the extracellular surface of the cell.

In one embodiment of the invention, at least one secondary polypeptide toxin is linked with a primary Cry1 A toxin capable of binding the receptor polypeptides of the invention to produce a combination toxin which is targeted and toxic to insects expressing the receptor for the primary toxin. Such insects include those of the order *lepidoptera*, superfamily Pyraloidea and particularly from the species *Ostrinia*, specifically *Ostrinia nubilalis*. Such insects include the lepidopterans *S. frugiperda* and *H. Zea*. Such a combination toxin is particularly useful for eradicating or reducing crop damage by insects which have developed resistance to the primary toxin.

For expression of the Bt toxin receptor polypeptides of the invention in a cell of interest, the Bt toxin receptor sequences are provided in expression cassettes. The cassette will include 5' and 3' regulatory sequences operably linked to a Bt toxin receptor sequence of the invention. In this aspect of the 5 present invention, by "operably linked" is intended a functional linkage between a promoter and a second sequence, wherein the promoter sequence initiates and mediates transcription of the DNA sequence corresponding to the second sequence. In reference to nucleic acids, generally, operably 10 linked means that the nucleic acid sequences being linked are contiguous and, where necessary to join two polypeptide coding regions, contiguous and in the same reading frame. The cassette may additionally contain at least one additional gene to be cotransformed into the organism. Alternatively, the 15 additional gene(s) can be provided on multiple expression cassettes.

Such an expression cassette is provided with a plurality of restriction sites for insertion of the Bt toxin receptor sequence to be under the transcriptional regulation of the regulatory regions. The expression cassette may additionally contain selectable marker genes.

The expression cassette will include in the 5'-3' direction of transcription, a transcriptional and translational initiation region, a Bt toxin receptor nucleotide sequence of the invention, and a transcriptional and translational termination region functional in host cells. The transcriptional initiation region, the promoter, may be native or analogous, or foreign or heterologous to the plant host. Additionally, the promoter may be the natural sequence or alternatively a synthetic sequence. By "foreign" is intended that the transcriptional initiation region is not found in the native host cells into which the transcriptional initiation region is introduced. As used herein, a chimeric gene comprises a coding sequence operably linked to a transcription initiation region that is heterologous to the coding sequence.

While it may be preferable to express the sequences using heterologous promoters, the native promoter sequences may be used. Such constructs would change expression levels of Bt toxin receptor in the cell of interest. Thus, the phenotype of 40 the cell is altered.

The termination region may be native with the transcriptional initiation region, may be native with the operably linked DNA sequence of interest, or may be derived from another source.

Where appropriate, the gene(s) may be optimized for increased expression in a particular transformed cell of interest. That is, the genes can be synthesized using host cell-preferred codons for improved expression.

Additional sequence modifications are known to enhance 50 gene expression in a cellular host. These include elimination of sequences encoding spurious polyadenylation signals, exon-intron splice site signals, transposon-like repeats, and other such well-characterized sequences that may be deleterious to gene expression. The G-C content of the sequence 55 may be adjusted to levels average for a given cellular host, as calculated by reference to known genes expressed in the host cell. When possible, the sequence is modified to avoid predicted hairpin secondary mRNA structures.

The expression cassettes may additionally contain 5' leader sequences in the expression cassette construct. Such leader sequences can act to enhance translation. Translation leaders are known in the art and include: picornavirus leaders, for example, EMCV leader (Encephalomyocarditis 5' noncoding region) (Elroy-Stein et al. (1989) *PNAS USA* 86:6126-6130); 65 potyvirus leaders, for example, TEV leader (Tobacco Etch Virus) (Allison et al. (1986); MDMV leader (Maize Dwarf

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Mosaic Virus); *Virology* 154:9-20), and human immunoglobulin heavy-chain binding polypeptide (BiP), (Macejak et al. (1991) *Nature* 353:90-94); untranslated leader from the coat polypeptide mRNA of alfalfa mosaic virus (AMV RNA 4) (Jobling et al. (1987) *Nature* 325:622-625); tobacco mosaic virus leader (TMV) (Gallie et al. (1989) in *Molecular Biology of RNA*, ed. Cech (Liss, New York), pp. 237-256); and maize chlorotic mottle virus leader (MCMV) (Lommel et al. (1991) *Virology* 81:382-385). See also, Della-Cioppa et al. (1987) *Plant Physiol.* 84:965-968. Other methods known to enhance translation can also be utilized, for example, introns, and the like.

In preparing the expression cassette, the various DNA fragments may be manipulated, so as to provide for the DNA sequences in the proper orientation and, as appropriate, in the proper reading frame. Toward this end, adapters or linkers may be employed to join the DNA fragments or other manipulations may be involved to provide for convenient restriction sites, removal of superfluous DNA, removal of restriction sites, or the like. For this purpose, in vitro mutagenesis, primer repair, restriction, annealing, resubstitutions, e.g., transitions and transversions, may be involved.

Using the nucleic acids of the present invention, the polypeptides of the invention could be expressed in any cell of interest, the particular choice of the cell depending on factors such as the level of expression and/or receptor activity desired. Cells of interest include, but are not limited to conveniently available mammalian, plant, insect, bacteria, and yeast host cells. The choice of promoter, terminator, and other expression vector components will also depend on the cell chosen. The cells produce the protein in a non-natural condition (e.g., in quantity, composition, location, and/or time), because they have been genetically altered through human intervention to do so.

It is expected that those of skill in the art are knowledgeable in the numerous expression systems available for expression of a nucleic acid encoding a protein of the present invention. No attempt to describe in detail the various methods known for the expression of proteins in prokaryotes or eukaryotes will be made.

In brief summary, the expression of isolated nucleic acids encoding a protein of the present invention will typically be achieved by operably linking, for example, the DNA or cDNA to a promoter, followed by incorporation into an expression 45 vector. The vectors can be suitable for replication and integration in either prokaryotes or eukaryotes. Typical expression vectors contain transcription and translation terminators, initiation sequences, and promoters useful for regulation of the expression of the DNA encoding a protein of the present invention. To obtain high level expression of a cloned gene, it is desirable to construct expression vectors which contain, at the minimum, a strong promoter to direct transcription, a ribosome binding site for translational initiation, and a transcription/translation terminator. One of skill would recognize that modifications can be made to a protein of the present invention without diminishing its biological activity. Some modifications may be made to facilitate the cloning, expression, or incorporation of the targeting molecule into a fusion protein. Such modifications are well known to those of skill in the art and include, for example, a methionine added at the amino terminus to provide an initiation site, or additional amino acids (e.g., poly His) placed on either terminus to create conveniently located restriction sites or termination codons or purification sequences.

Prokaryotic cells may be used as hosts for expression. Prokaryotes most frequently are represented by various strains of $E.\ coli$; however, other microbial strains may also be

used. Commonly used prokaryotic control sequences which are defined herein to include promoters for transcription initiation, optionally with an operator, along with ribosome binding site sequences, include such commonly used promoters as the beta lactamase (penicillinase) and lactose (lac) 5 promoter systems (Chang et al. (1977) *Nature* 198:1056), the tryptophan (trp) promoter system (Goeddel et al. (1980) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 8:4057) and the lambda-derived P L promoter and N-gene ribosome binding site (Shimatake et al. (1981) *Nature* 292:128). The inclusion of selection markers in DNA vectors transfected in *E. coli* is also useful. Examples of such markers include genes specifying resistance to ampicillin, tetracycline, or chloramphenicol.

The vector is selected to allow introduction into the appropriate host cell. Bacterial vectors are typically of plasmid or 15 phage origin. Appropriate bacterial cells are infected with phage vector particles or transfected with naked phage vector DNA. If a plasmid vector is used, the bacterial cells are transfected with the plasmid vector DNA. Expression systems for expressing a protein of the present invention are 20 available using *Bacillus* sp. and *Salmonella* (Palva et al. (1983) *Gene* 22:229-235; Mosbach et al. (1983) *Nature* 302: 543-545).

A variety of eukaryotic expression systems such as yeast, insect cell lines, plant and mammalian cells, are known to 25 those of skill in the art. The sequences of the present invention can be expressed in these eukaryotic systems. In some embodiments, transformed/transfected plant cells are employed as expression systems for production of the proteins of the instant invention.

Synthesis of heterologous proteins in yeast is well known. Sherman, F. et al. (1982) *Methods in Yeast Genetics*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory is a well recognized work describing the various methods available to produce the protein in yeast. Two widely utilized yeast for production of eukaryotic 35 proteins are *Saccharomyces cerevisia* and *Pichia pastoris*. Vectors, strains, and protocols for expression in *Saccharomyces* and *Pichia* are known in the art and available from commercial suppliers (e.g., Invitrogen). Suitable vectors usually have expression control sequences, such as promoters, 40 including 3-phosphoglycerate kinase or alcohol oxidase, and an origin of replication, termination sequences and the like as desired.

A protein of the present invention, once expressed, can be isolated from yeast by lysing the cells and applying standard 45 protein isolation techniques to the lysates. The monitoring of the purification process can be accomplished by using Western blot techniques or radioimmunoassay or other standard immunoassay techniques.

The sequences encoding proteins of the present invention 50 can also be ligated to various expression vectors for use in transfecting cell cultures of, for instance, mammalian, insect, or plant origin. Illustrative of cell cultures useful for the production of the peptides are mammalian cells. Mammalian cell systems often will be in the form of monolayers of cells 55 although mammalian cell suspensions may also be used. A number of suitable host cell lines capable of expressing intact proteins have been developed in the art, and include the COS, HEK293, BHK21, and CHO cell lines. Expression vectors for these cells can include expression control sequences, such as 60 an origin of replication, a promoter (e.g., the CMV promoter, a HSV tk promoter or pgk (phosphoglycerate kinase promoter)), an enhancer (Queen et al. (1986) Immunol. Rev. 89:49), and necessary processing information sites, such as ribosome binding sites, RNA splice sites, polyadenylation 65 sites (e.g., an SV40 large T Ag poly A addition site), and transcriptional terminator sequences. Other animal cells use**10**

ful for production of proteins of the present invention are available, for instance, from the American Type Culture Collection Catalogue of Cell Lines and Hybridomas (7th edition, 1992). A particular example of mammalian cells for expression of a Bt toxin receptor and assessing Bt toxin cytotoxicity mediated by the receptor, includes embryonic 293 cells. See U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,491, herein incorporated by reference.

Appropriate vectors for expressing proteins of the present invention in insect cells are usually derived from the SF9 baculovirus. Suitable insect cell lines include mosquito larvae, silkworm, armyworm, moth and *Drosophila* cell lines such as a Schneider cell line (See Schneider et al. (1987) *J. Embryol. Exp. Morphol.* 27: 353-365).

As with yeast, when higher animal or plant host cells are employed, polyadenylation or transcription terminator sequences are typically incorporated into the vector. An example of a terminator sequence is the polyadenylation sequence from the bovine growth hormone gene. Sequences for accurate splicing of the transcript may also be included. An example of a splicing sequence is the VP1 intron from SV40 (Sprague et al. (1983) *J. Virol.* 45:773-781). Additionally, gene sequences to control replication in the host cell may be incorporated into the vector such as those found in bovine papilloma virus-type vectors. Saveria-Campo, M., Bovine Papilloma Virus DNA a Eukaryotic Cloning Vector in *DNA Cloning Vol. II a Practical Approach*, D. M. Glover, ed., IRL Pres, Arlington, Va. pp. 213-238 (1985).

In a particular embodiment of the invention, it may be desirable to negatively control receptor binding; particularly, when toxicity to a cell is no longer desired or if it is desired to reduce toxicity to a lower level. In this case, ligand-receptor polypeptide binding assays can be used to screen for compounds which bind to the receptor but do not confer toxicity to a cell expressing the receptor. The examples of a molecule that can be used to block ligand binding include an antibody that specifically recognizes the ligand binding domain of the receptor such that ligand binding is decreased or prevented as desired.

In another embodiment, receptor polypeptide expression could be blocked by the use of antisense molecules directed against receptor RNA or ribozymes specifically targeted to this receptor RNA. It is recognized that with the provided nucleotide sequences, antisense constructions, complementary to at least a portion of the messenger RNA (mRNA) for the Bt toxin receptor sequences can be constructed. Antisense nucleotides are constructed to hybridize with the corresponding mRNA. Modifications of the antisense sequences may be made as long as the sequences hybridize to and interfere with expression of the corresponding mRNA. In this manner, antisense constructions having 70%, preferably 80%, more preferably 85% sequence similarity to the corresponding antisensed sequences may be used. Furthermore, portions of the antisense nucleotides may be used to disrupt the expression of the target gene. Generally, sequences of at least 50 nucleotides, 100 nucleotides, 200 nucleotides, or greater may be used.

Fragments and variants of the disclosed nucleotide sequences and polypeptides encoded thereby are encompassed by the present invention. By "fragment" is intended a portion of the nucleotide sequence, or a portion of the amino acid sequence, and hence a portion of the polypeptide encoded thereby. Fragments of a nucleotide sequence may encode polypeptide fragments that retain the biological activity of the native polypeptide and, for example, bind Bt toxins. Alternatively, fragments of a nucleotide sequence that are useful as hybridization probes generally do not encode fragment polypeptides retaining biological activity. Thus, fragment polypeptides retaining biological activity. Thus, frag-

ments of a nucleotide sequence may range from at least about 20 nucleotides, about 50 nucleotides, about 100 nucleotides, and up to the full-length nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptides of the invention.

A fragment of a Bt toxin receptor nucleotide sequence that 5 encodes a biologically active portion of a Bt toxin receptor polypeptide of the invention will encode at least 15, 25, 30, 50, 100, 150, 200 or 250 contiguous amino acids, or up to the total number of amino acids present in a full-length Bt toxin receptor polypeptide of the invention (for example, 1717, 10 1730, and 1734 amino acids for SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, and 6, respectively. Fragments of a Bt toxin receptor nucleotide sequence that are useful as hybridization probes for PCR primers generally need not encode a biologically active portion of a Bt toxin receptor polypeptide.

Thus, a fragment of a Bt toxin receptor nucleotide sequence may encode a biologically active portion of a Bt toxin receptor polypeptide, or it may be a fragment that can be used as a hybridization probe or PCR primer using methods disclosed below. A biologically active portion of a Bt toxin 20 receptor polypeptide can be prepared by isolating a portion of one of the Bt toxin receptor nucleotide sequences of the invention, expressing the encoded portion of the Bt toxin receptor polypeptide (e.g., by recombinant expression in vitro), and assessing the activity of the encoded portion of the 25 Bt toxin receptor polypeptide. Nucleic acid molecules that are fragments of a Bt toxin receptor nucleotide sequence comprise at least 16, 20, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 800, 900, 1,000, 1,100, 1,200, 1,300, or 1,400 nucleotides, or up to the number of nucleotides present in a full-length Bt toxin receptor nucleotide sequence disclosed herein (for example, 5498, 5527, and 5614 nucleotides for SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, and 5, respectively).

By "variants" is intended substantially similar sequences. For nucleotide sequences, conservative variants include those 35 sequences that, because of the degeneracy of the genetic code, encode the amino acid sequence of one of the Bt toxin receptor polypeptides of the invention. Naturally occurring allelic variants such as these can be identified with the use of wellknown molecular biology techniques, as, for example, with 40 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and hybridization techniques as outlined below. Variant nucleotide sequences also include synthetically derived nucleotide sequences, such as those generated, for example, by using site-directed mutagenesis, but which still encode a Bt toxin receptor protein of the 45 invention. Generally, variants of a particular nucleotide sequence of the invention will have at least about 40%, 50%, 60%, 65%, 70%, generally at least about 75%, 80%, 85%, preferably at least about 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, and more preferably at least about 98%, 99% or 50 more sequence identity to that particular nucleotide sequence as determined by sequence alignment programs described elsewhere herein using default parameters.

By "variant" protein is intended a protein derived from the native protein by deletion (so-called truncation) or addition of one or more amino acids to the N-terminal and/or C-terminal end of the native protein; deletion or addition of one or more amino acids at one or more sites in the native protein; or substitution of one or more amino acids at one or more sites in the native protein. Variant proteins encompassed by the formulative protein. Variant proteins encompassed by the present invention are biologically active, that is they continue to possess the desired biological activity of the native protein, that is, activity as described herein (for example, Bt toxin binding activity). Such variants may result from, for example, genetic polymorphism or from human manipulation. Biologically active variants of a native Bt toxin receptor protein of the invention will have at least about 40%, 50%, 60%, 65%, 70%,

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generally at least about 75%, 80%, 85%, preferably at least about 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, and more preferably at least about 98%, 99% or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence for the native protein as determined by sequence alignment programs described elsewhere herein using default parameters. A biologically active variant of a protein of the invention may differ from that protein by as few as 1-15 amino acid residues, as few as 1-10, such as 6-10, as few as 5, as few as 4, 3, 2, or even 1 amino acid residue.

The polypeptides of the invention may be altered in various ways including amino acid substitutions, deletions, truncations, and insertions. Methods for such manipulations are generally known in the art. For example, amino acid sequence variants of the Bt toxin receptor polypeptides can be prepared 15 by mutations in the DNA. Methods for mutagenesis and nucleotide sequence alterations are well known in the art. See, for example, Kunkel (1985) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:488-492; Kunkel et al. (1987) *Methods in Enzymol.* 154: 367-382; U.S. Pat. No. 4,873,192; Walker and Gaastra, eds. (1983) Techniques in Molecular Biology (MacMillan Publishing Company, New York) and the references cited therein. Guidance as to appropriate amino acid substitutions that do not affect biological activity of the protein of interest may be found in the model of Dayhoff et al. (1978) Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure (Natl. Biomed. Res. Found., Washington, D.C.), herein incorporated by reference. Conservative substitutions, such as exchanging one amino acid with another having similar properties, may be preferable.

Thus, the genes and nucleotide sequences of the invention include both the naturally occurring sequences as well as mutant forms. Likewise, the proteins of the invention encompass both naturally occurring proteins as well as variations and modified forms thereof. Such variants will continue to possess the desired toxin binding activity. Obviously, the mutations that will be made in the DNA encoding the variant must not place the sequence out of reading frame and preferably will not create complementary regions that could produce secondary mRNA structure. See, EP Patent Application Publication No. 75,444.

The deletions, insertions, and substitutions of the protein sequences encompassed herein are not expected to produce radical changes in the characteristics of the protein. For example, it is recognized that at least about 10, 20, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, and up to 960 amino acids may be deleted from the N-terminus of a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, and still retain binding function. It is further recognized that at least about 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, and up to 119 amino acids may be deleted from the C-terminus of a polypeptide that has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, and still retain binding function. Deletion variants of the invention that encompass polypeptides having these deletions. It is recognized that deletion variants of the invention that retain binding function encompass polypeptides having these N-terminal or C-terminal deletions, or having any deletion combination thereof at both the C- and the N-termını.

However, when it is difficult to predict the exact effect of the substitution, deletion, or insertion in advance of doing so, one skilled in the art will appreciate that the effect will be evaluated by routine screening assays. That is, the activity can be evaluated by receptor binding and/or toxicity assays. See, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,491; T. P. Keeton et al. (1998) *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 64(6):2158-2165; B. R. Francis et al. (1997) *Insect Biochem. Mol. Biol.* 27(6):541-550; T. P. Keeton et al. (1997) *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.*

63(9):3419-3425; R. K. Vadlamudi et al. (1995) *J. Biol. Chem.* 270(10):5490-5494; Ihara et al. (1998) *Comparative Biochem. Physiol. B* 120:197-204; Nagamatsu et al. (1998) *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.* 62(4):727-734, herein incorporated by reference.

Variant nucleotide sequences and polypeptides also encompass sequences and polypeptides derived from a mutagenic and recombinogenic procedure such as DNA shuffling. With such a procedure, one or more different toxin receptor coding sequences can be manipulated to create a new 10 toxin receptor, including but not limited to a new Bt toxin receptor, possessing the desired properties. In this manner, libraries of recombinant polynucleotides are generated from a population of related sequence polynucleotides comprising sequence regions that have substantial sequence identity and 15 can be homologously recombined in vitro or in vivo. For example, using this approach, sequence motifs encoding a domain of interest may be shuffled between the Bt toxin receptor gene of the invention and other known Bt toxin receptor genes to obtain a new gene coding for a polypeptide 20 with an improved property of interest, such as an increased ligand affinity in the case of a receptor. Strategies for such DNA shuffling are known in the art. See, for example, Stemmer (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:10747-10751; Stemmer (1994) Nature 370:389-391; Crameri et al. (1997) 25 Nature Biotech. 15:436-438; Moore et al. (1997) J. Mol. Biol. 272:336-347; Zhang et al. (1997) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 94:4504-4509; Crameri et al. (1998) *Nature* 391:288-291; and U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,605,793 and 5,837,448.

Where the receptor polypeptides of the invention are 30 expressed in a cell and associated with the cell membrane (for example, by a transmembrane segment), in order for the receptor of the invention to bind a desired ligand, for example a Cry 1 A toxin, the receptor's ligand binding domain must be available to the ligand. In this aspect, it is recognized that the 35 native Bt toxin receptor of the invention is oriented such that the toxin binding site is available extracellularly.

Accordingly, in methods comprising use of intact cells, the invention provides cell surface Bt-toxin receptors. By a "cell surface Bt toxin receptor" is intended a membrane-bound 40 receptor polypeptide comprising at least one extracellular Bt toxin binding site. A cell surface receptor of the invention comprises an appropriate combination of signal sequences and transmembrane segments for guiding and retaining the receptor at the cell membrane such that that toxin binding site 45 is available extracellularly. Where native Bt toxin receptors are used for expression, deduction of the composition and configuration of the signal sequences and transmembrane segments is not necessary to ensure the appropriate topology of the polypeptide for displaying the toxin binding site extra- 50 cellularly. As an alternative to native signal and transmembrane sequences, heterologous signal and transmembrane sequences could be utilized to produce a cell surface receptor polypeptide of the invention.

It is recognized that it may be of interest to generate Bt 55 toxin receptors that are capable of interacting with the receptor's ligands intracellularly in the cytoplasm, in the nucleus or other organelles, in other subcellular spaces; or in the extracellular space. Accordingly, the invention encompasses variants of the receptors of the invention, wherein one or more of 60 the segments of the receptor polypeptide is modified to target the polypeptide to a desired intra- or extracellular location.

Also encompassed by the invention are receptor fragments and variants that are useful, among other things, as binding antagonists that will compete with a cell surface receptor of 65 the invention. Such a fragment or variant can, for example, bind a toxin but not be able to confer toxicity to a particular

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cell. In this aspect, the invention provides secreted receptors, more particularly secreted Bt toxin receptors; or receptors that are not membrane bound. The secreted receptors of the invention can contain a heterologous or homologous signal sequence facilitating its secretion from the cell expressing the receptors; and further comprise a secretion variation in the region corresponding to transmembrane segments. By "secretion variation" is intended that amino acids corresponding to a transmembrane segment of a membrane bound receptor comprise one or more deletions, substitutions, insertions, or any combination thereof, such that the region no longer retains the requisite hydrophobicity to serve as a transmembrane segment. Sequence alterations to create a secretion variation can be tested by confirming secretion of the polypeptide comprising the variation from the cell expressing the polypeptide.

The polypeptides of the invention can be purified from cells that naturally express it, purified from cells that have been altered to express it (i.e. recombinant) or synthesized using polypeptide synthesis techniques that are well known in the art. In one embodiment, the polypeptide is produced by recombinant DNA methods. In such methods a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide is cloned into an expression vector as described more fully herein and expressed in an appropriate host cell according to known methods in the art. The polypeptide is then isolated from cells using polypeptide purification techniques well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Alternatively, the polypeptide or fragment can be synthesized using peptide synthesis methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

The invention also encompasses fusion polypeptides in which one or more polypeptides of the invention are fused with at least one polypeptide of interest. In one embodiment, the invention encompasses fusion polypeptides in which a heterologous polypeptide of interest has an amino acid sequence that is not substantially homologous to the polypeptide of the invention. In this embodiment, the polypeptide of the invention and the polypeptide of interest may or may not be operatively linked. An example of operative linkage is fusion in-frame so that a single polypeptide is produced upon translation. Such fusion polypeptides can, for example, facilitate the purification of a recombinant polypeptide.

In another embodiment, the fused polypeptide of interest may contain a heterologous signal sequence at the N-terminus facilitating its secretion from specific host cells. The expression and secretion of the polypeptide can thereby be increased by use of the heterologous signal sequence.

The invention is also directed to polypeptides in which one or more domains in the polypeptide described herein are operatively linked to heterologous domains having homologous functions. Thus, the toxin binding domain can be replaced with a toxin binding domain for other toxins. Thereby, the toxin specificity of the receptor is based on a toxin binding domain other than the domain encoded by Bt toxin receptor but other characteristics of the polypeptide, for example, membrane localization and topology is based on Bt toxin receptor.

Alternatively, the native Bt toxin binding domain may be retained while additional heterologous ligand binding domains, including but not limited to heterologous toxin binding domains are comprised by the receptor. Thus, the invention also encompasses fusion polypeptides in which a polypeptide of interest is a heterologous polypeptide comprising a heterologous toxin binding domains. Examples of heterologous polypeptides comprising Cry1 toxin binding domains include, but are not limited to Knight et al (1994) *Mol Micro* 11: 429-436; Lee et al. (1996) *Appl Environ Micro*

63: 2845-2849; Gill et al (1995) *J Biol Chem* 270: 27277-27282; Garczynski et al (1991) *Appl Environ Microbiol* 10: 2816-2820; Vadlamudi et al. (1995) *J Biol Chem* 270(10): 5490-4, U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,491.

The Bt toxin receptor peptide of the invention may also be fused with other members of the cadherin superfamily. Such fusion polypeptides could provide an important reflection of the binding properties of the members of the superfamily. Such combinations could be further used to extend the range of applicability of these molecules in a wide range of systems or species that might not otherwise be amenable to native or relatively homologous polypeptides. The fusion constructs could be substituted into systems in which a native construct would not be functional because of species specific constraints. Hybrid constructs may further exhibit desirable or 15 unusual characteristics otherwise unavailable with the combinations of native polypeptides.

Polypeptide variants encompassed by the present invention include those that contain mutations that either enhance or decrease one or more domain functions. For example, in the 20 toxin binding domain, a mutation may be introduced that increases or decreases the sensitivity of the domain to a specific toxin.

As an alternative to the introduction of mutations, increase in function may be provided by increasing the copy number of 25 ligand binding domains. Thus, the invention also encompasses receptor polypeptides in which the toxin binding domain is provided in more than one copy.

The invention further encompasses cells containing receptor expression vectors comprising the Bt toxin receptor 30 sequences, and fragments and variants thereof. The expression vector can contain one or more expression cassettes used to transform a cell of interest. Transcription of these genes can be placed under the control of a constitutive or inducible promoter (for example, tissue- or cell cycle-preferred).

Where more than one expression cassette utilized, the cassette that is additional to the cassette comprising at least one receptor sequence of the invention, can comprise either a receptor sequence of the invention or any other desired sequences.

The nucleotide sequences of the invention can be used to isolate homologous sequences in insect species other than *ostrinia*, particularly other lepidopteran species, more particularly other *Pyraloidea* species.

The following terms are used to describe the sequence 45 relationships between two or more nucleic acids or polynucleotides: (a) "reference sequence", (b) "comparison window", (c) "sequence identity", (d) "percentage of sequence identity", and (e) "substantial identity".

(a) As used herein, "reference sequence" is a defined 50 sequence used as a basis for sequence comparison. A reference sequence may be a subset or the entirety of a specified sequence; for example, as a segment of a full-length cDNA or gene sequence.

(b) As used herein, "comparison window" makes reference to a contiguous and specified segment of a polynucleotide sequence, wherein the polynucleotide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. Generally, the comparison window is at least 20 contiguous nucleotides in length, and optionally can be 30, 40, 50, 100, or longer. Those of skill in the art understand that to avoid a high similarity to a reference sequence due to inclusion of gaps in the polynucleotide sequence a gap penalty is typically introduced and is subtracted from the number of matches.

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Methods of alignment of sequences for comparison are well known in the art. Thus, the determination of percent identity between any two sequences can be accomplished using a mathematical algorithm. Non-limiting examples of such mathematical algorithms are the algorithm of Myers and Miller (1988) *CABIOS* 4:11-17; the local homology algorithm of Smith et al. (1981) *Adv. Appl. Math.* 2:482; the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970) *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443-453; the search-for-similarity-method of Pearson and Lipman (1988) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 85:2444-2448; the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul (1990) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 872264, modified as in Karlin and Altschul (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:5873-5877.

Computer implementations of these mathematical algorithms can be utilized for comparison of sequences to determine sequence identity. Such implementations include, but are not limited to: CLUSTAL in the PC/Gene program (available from Intelligenetics, Mountain View, Calif.); the ALIGN program (Version 2.0); the ALIGN PLUS program (version 3.0, copyright 1997); and GAP, BESTFIT, BLAST, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Version 8 (available from Genetics Computer Group (GCG), 575 Science Drive, Madison, Wis., USA). Alignments using these programs can be performed using the default parameters. The CLUSTAL program is well described by Higgins et al. (1988) Gene 73:237-244 (1988); Higgins et al. (1989) CABIOS 5:151-153; Corpet et al. (1988) Nucleic Acids Res. 16:10881-90; Huang et al. (1992) *CABIOS* 8:155-65; and Pearson et al. (1994) Meth. Mol. Biol. 24:307-331. The ALIGN and the ALIGN PLUS programs are based on the algorithm of Myers and Miller (1988) supra. A PAM120 weight residue table, a gap length penalty of 12, and a gap penalty of 4 can be used with the ALIGN program when comparing amino acid sequences. The BLAST programs of 35 Altschul et al (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403 are based on the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul (1990) supra. BLAST nucleotide searches can be performed with the BLASTN program, score=100, wordlength=12, to obtain nucleotide sequences homologous to a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein of 40 the invention. BLAST protein searches can be performed with the BLASTX program, score=50, wordlength=3, to obtain amino acid sequences homologous to a protein or polypeptide of the invention. To obtain gapped alignments for comparison purposes, Gapped BLAST (in BLAST 2.0) can be utilized as described in Altschul et al. (1997) Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389. Alternatively, PSI-BLAST (in BLAST 2.0) can be used to perform an iterated search that detects distant relationships between molecules. See Altschul et al. (1997) supra. When utilizing BLAST, Gapped BLAST, PSI-BLAST, the default parameters of the respective programs (e.g., BLASTN for nucleotide sequences, BLASTX for proteins) can be used. See http://www.ncbi.hlm.nih.gov. Alignment may also be performed manually by inspection.

Unless otherwise stated, sequence identity/similarity values provided herein refer to the value obtained using GAP Version 10 using the following parameters: % identity using GAP Weight of 50 and Length Weight of 3; % similarity using Gap Weight of 12 and Length Weight of 4, or any equivalent program. By "equivalent program" is intended any sequence comparison program that, for any two sequences in question, generates an alignment having identical nucleotide or amino acid residue matches and an identical percent sequence identity when compared to the corresponding alignment generated by the preferred program.

GAP uses the algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970) *J. Mol. Biol.* 48: 443-453, to find the alignment of two complete sequences that maximizes the number of matches and

minimizes the number of gaps. GAP considers all possible alignments and gap positions and creates the alignment with the largest number of matched bases and the fewest gaps. It allows for the provision of a gap creation penalty and a gap extension penalty in units of matched bases. GAP must make 5 a profit of gap creation penalty number of matches for each gap it inserts. If a gap extension penalty greater than zero is chosen, GAP must, in addition, make a profit for each gap inserted of the length of the gap times the gap extension penalty. Default gap creation penalty values and gap exten- 10 sion penalty values in Version 10 of the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package for protein sequences are 8 and 2, respectively. For nucleotide sequences the default gap creation penalty is 50 while the default gap extension penalty is 3. The gap creation and gap extension penalties can be expressed as an 15 integer selected from the group of integers consisting of from 0 to 200. Thus, for example, the gap creation and gap extension penalties can be 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65 or greater.

GAP presents one member of the family of best align- 20 ments. There may be many members of this family, but no other member has a better quality. GAP displays four figures of merit for alignments: Quality, Ratio, Identity, and Similarity. The Quality is the metric maximized in order to align the sequences. Ratio is the quality divided by the number of bases 25 in the shorter segment. Percent Identity is the percent of the symbols that actually match. Percent Similarity is the percent of the symbols that are similar. Symbols that are across from gaps are ignored. A similarity is scored when the scoring matrix value for a pair of symbols is greater than or equal to 30 0.50, the similarity threshold. The scoring matrix used in Version 10 of the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package is BLOSUM62 (see Henikoff and Henikoff (1989) *Proc. Natl.* Acad. Sci. USA 89:10915).

context of two nucleic acid or polypeptide sequences makes reference to the residues in the two sequences that are the same when aligned for maximum correspondence over a specified comparison window. When percentage of sequence identity is used in reference to proteins it is recognized that 40 residue positions which are not identical often differ by conservative amino acid substitutions, where amino acid residues are substituted for other amino acid residues with similar chemical properties (e.g., charge or hydrophobicity) and therefore do not change the functional properties of the mol- 45 ecule. When sequences differ in conservative substitutions, the percent sequence identity may be adjusted upwards to correct for the conservative nature of the substitution. Sequences that differ by such conservative substitutions are said to have "sequence similarity" or "similarity". Means for 50 making this adjustment are well known to those of skill in the art. Typically this involves scoring a conservative substitution as a partial rather than a full mismatch, thereby increasing the percentage sequence identity. Thus, for example, where an identical amino acid is given a score of 1 and a non-conser- 55 vative substitution is given a score of zero, a conservative substitution is given a score between zero and 1. The scoring of conservative substitutions is calculated, e.g., as implemented in the program PC/GENE (Intelligenetics, Mountain View, Calif.).

(d) As used herein, "percentage of sequence identity" means the value determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a comparison window, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) as 65 compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two

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sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid base or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the window of comparison, and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity.

(e) (i) The term "substantial identity" of polynucleotide sequences means that a polynucleotide comprises a sequence that has at least 70% sequence identity, preferably at least 80%, more preferably at least 90%, and most preferably at least 95%, compared to a reference sequence using one of the alignment programs described using standard parameters. One of skill in the art will recognize that these values can be appropriately adjusted to determine corresponding identity of proteins encoded by two nucleotide sequences by taking into account codon degeneracy, amino acid similarity, reading frame positioning, and the like. Substantial identity of amino acid sequences for these purposes normally means sequence identity of at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, 80%, 90%, and most preferably at least 95%.

Another indication that nucleotide sequences are substantially identical is if two molecules hybridize to each other under stringent conditions. Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about 5° C. lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength and pH. However, stringent conditions encompass temperatures in the range of about 1° C. to about 20° C. lower than the T_m , depending upon the desired degree of stringency as otherwise qualified herein. Nucleic acids that do not hybridize to each other under stringent conditions are still substantially identical if the polypeptides they encode are substantially identical. This may occur, e.g., when a copy of a nucleic acid is created using the maximum codon degeneracy permitted by (c) As used herein, "sequence identity" or "identity" in the 35 the genetic code. One indication that two nucleic acid sequences are substantially identical is when the polypeptide encoded by the first nucleic acid sequence is immunologically cross reactive with the polypeptide encoded by the second nucleic acid sequence.

> (e) (ii) The term "substantial identity" in the context of a peptide indicates that a peptide comprises a sequence with at least 70% sequence identity to a reference sequence, preferably 80%, more preferably 85%, most preferably at least 90% or 95% sequence identity to the reference sequence over a specified comparison window. Preferably, optimal alignment is conducted using the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (1970) J. Mol. Biol. 48:443-453. An indication that two peptide sequences are substantially identical is that one peptide is immunologically reactive with antibodies raised against the second peptide. Thus, a peptide is substantially identical to a second peptide, for example, where the two peptides differ only by a conservative substitution. Peptides that are "substantially similar" share sequences as noted above except that residue positions that are not identical may differ by conservative amino acid changes.

The nucleotide sequences of the invention can be used to isolate corresponding sequences from other organisms, particularly other insects, more particularly other lepidopteran species. In this manner, methods such as PCR, hybridization, and the like can be used to identify such sequences based on their sequence homology to the sequences set forth herein. Sequences isolated based on their sequence identity to the entire Bt toxin receptor sequences set forth herein or to fragments thereof are encompassed by the present invention. Such sequences include sequences that are orthologs of the disclosed sequences. By "orthologs" is intended genes

derived from a common ancestral gene and which are found in different species as a result of speciation. Genes found in different species are considered orthologs when their nucleotide sequences and/or their encoded protein sequences share substantial identity as defined elsewhere herein. Functions of 5 orthologs are often highly conserved among species.

In a PCR approach, oligonucleotide primers can be designed for use in PCR reactions to amplify corresponding DNA sequences from cDNA or genomic DNA extracted from any organism of interest. Methods for designing PCR primers 10 and PCR cloning are generally known in the art and are disclosed in Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, N.Y.). See also Innis et al., eds. (1990) PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications (Academic 15 Press, New York); Innis and Gelfand, eds. (1995) PCR Strategies (Academic Press, New York); and Innis and Gelfand, eds. (1999) PCR Methods Manual (Academic Press, New York). Known methods of PCR include, but are not limited to, methods using paired primers, nested primers, single specific 20 primers, degenerate primers, gene-specific primers, vectorspecific primers, partially-mismatched primers, and the like.

In hybridization techniques, all or part of a known nucleotide sequence is used as a probe that selectively hybridizes to other corresponding nucleotide sequences present in a popu- 25 lation of cloned genomic DNA fragments or cDNA fragments (i.e., genomic or cDNA libraries) from a chosen organism. The hybridization probes may be genomic DNA fragments, cDNA fragments, RNA fragments, or other oligonucleotides, and may be labeled with a detectable group such as ³²P, or any 30 other detectable marker. Thus, for example, probes for hybridization can be made by labeling synthetic oligonucleotides based on the Bt toxin receptor sequences of the invention. Methods for preparation of probes for hybridization and for construction of cDNA and genomic libraries are generally 35 known in the art and are disclosed in Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, N.Y.).

For example, the entire Bt toxin receptor sequence disclosed herein, or one or more portions thereof, may be used as 40 a probe capable of specifically hybridizing to corresponding Bt toxin receptor sequences and messenger RNAs. To achieve specific hybridization under a variety of conditions, such probes include sequences that are unique among Bt toxin receptor sequences and are preferably at least about 10 nucle- 45 otides in length, and most preferably at least about 20 nucleotides in length. Such probes may be used to amplify corresponding Bt toxin receptor sequences from a chosen plant organism by PCR. This technique may be used to isolate additional coding sequences from a desired organism or as a 50 diagnostic assay to determine the presence of coding sequences in an organism. Hybridization techniques include hybridization screening of plated DNA libraries (either plaques or colonies; see, for example, Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2d ed., Cold 55) Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, N.Y.).

Hybridization of such sequences may be carried out under stringent conditions. By "stringent conditions" or "stringent hybridization conditions" is intended conditions under which a probe will hybridize to its target sequence to a detectably 60 greater degree than to other sequences (e.g., at least 2-fold over background). Stringent conditions are sequence-dependent and will be different in different circumstances. By controlling the stringency of the hybridization and/or washing conditions, target sequences that are 100% complementary to 65 the probe can be identified (homologous probing). Alternatively, stringency conditions can be adjusted to allow some

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mismatching in sequences so that lower degrees of similarity are detected (heterologous probing). Generally, a probe is less than about 1000 nucleotides in length, preferably less than 500 nucleotides in length.

Typically, stringent conditions will be those in which the salt concentration is less than about 1.5 M Na ion, typically about 0.01 to 1.0 M Na ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3 and the temperature is at least about 30° C. for short probes (e.g., 10 to 50 nucleotides) and at least about 60° C. for long probes (e.g., greater than 50 nucleotides). Stringent conditions may also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. Exemplary low stringency conditions include hybridization with a buffer solution of 30 to 35% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS (sodium dodecyl sulphate) at 37° C., and a wash in 1× to 2×SSC (20×SSC=3.0 M NaCl/0.3 M trisodium citrate) at 50 to 55° C. Exemplary moderate stringency conditions include hybridization in 40 to 45% formamide, 1.0 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37° C., and a wash in 0.5× to 1×SSC at 55 to 60° C. Exemplary high stringency conditions include hybridization in 50% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37° C., and a wash in 0.1×SSC at 60 to 65° C. Duration of hybridization is generally less than about 24

hours, usually about 4 to about 12 hours. Specificity is typically the function of post-hybridization washes, the critical factors being the ionic strength and temperature of the final wash solution. For DNA-DNA hybrids, the T_m can be approximated from the equation of Meinkoth and Wahl (1984) Anal. Biochem. 138:267-284: $T_m=81.5^{\circ}$ C.+16.6 (log M)+0.41 (% GC)-0.61 (% form)-500/L; where M is the molarity of monovalent cations, % GC is the percentage of guanosine and cytosine nucleotides in the DNA, % form is the percentage of formamide in the hybridization solution, and L is the length of the hybrid in base pairs. The T_m is the temperature (under defined ionic strength and pH) at which 50% of a complementary target sequence hybridizes to a perfectly matched probe. T_m is reduced by about 1° C. for each 1% of mismatching; thus, T_m , hybridization, and/or wash conditions can be adjusted to hybridize to sequences of the desired identity. For example, if sequences with $\geq 90\%$ identity are sought, the T_m can be decreased 10° C. Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about 5° C. lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) for the specific sequence and its complement at a defined ionic strength and pH. However, severely stringent conditions can utilize a hybridization and/ or wash at 1, 2, 3, or 4° C. lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) ; moderately stringent conditions can utilize a hybridization and/or wash at 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10° C. lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) ; low stringency conditions can utilize a hybridization and/or wash at 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 20° C. lower than the thermal melting point (T_m) . Using the equation, hybridization and wash compositions, and desired T_m , those of ordinary skill will understand that variations in the stringency of hybridization and/or wash solutions are inherently described. If the desired degree of mismatching results in a T_m of less than 45° C. (aqueous solution) or 32° C. (formamide solution), it is preferred to increase the SSC concentration so that a higher temperature can be used. An extensive guide to the hybridization of nucleic acids is found in Tijssen (1993) Laboratory Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology—Hybridization with Nucleic Acid Probes, Part I, Chapter 2 (Elsevier, N.Y.); and Ausubel et al., eds. (1995) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Chapter 2 (Greene Publishing and Wiley-Interscience, New York). See Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, N.Y.).

Thus, isolated sequences that encode for a Bt toxin receptor protein and which hybridize under stringent conditions to the Bt toxin receptor sequences disclosed herein, or to fragments thereof, are encompassed by the present invention. Such sequences will be at least about 40% to 50% homologous, about 60%, 65%, or 70% homologous, and even at least about 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more homologous with the disclosed sequences. That is, the sequence identity of sequences may range, sharing at least about 40% to 50%, about 60%, 65%, or 70%, and even at least about 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or more sequence identity.

The compositions and screening methods of the invention 15 are useful for identifying cells expressing the BT toxin receptors of the invention, and variants and homologues thereof. Such identification could utilize detection methods at the protein level, such as ligand-receptor binding; or at the nucleotide level. Detection of the polypeptide could be in situ by 20 means of in situ hybridization of tissue sections but may also be analyzed by bulk polypeptide purification and subsequent analysis by Western blot or immunological assay of a bulk preparation. Alternatively, receptor gene expression can be detected at the nucleic acid level by techniques well known to 25 those of ordinary skill in any art using complimentary polynucleotides to assess the levels of genomic DNA, mRNA, and the like. As an example, PCR primers complimentary to the nucleic acid of interest can be used to identify the level of expression. Tissues and cells identified as expressing the receptor sequences of the invention are determined to be susceptible to toxins which bind the receptor polypeptides.

Where the source of the cells identified to express the receptor polypeptides of the invention is an organism, for example an insect plant pest, the organism is determined to be susceptible to toxins capable of binding the polypeptides. In a particular embodiment, identification is in a lepidopteran plant pesr expressing the Bt toxin receptor of the invention.

The invention encompasses antibody preparations with 40 specificity against the polypeptides of the invention. In further embodiments of the invention, the antibodies are used to detect receptor expression in a cell.

In one aspect, the invention is particularly drawn to compositions and methods for modulating susceptibility of plant 45 pests to Bt toxins. However, it is recognized that the methods and compositions could be used for modulating susceptibility of any cell or organism to the toxins. By "modulating" is intended that the susceptibility of a cell or organism to the cytotoxic effects of the toxin is increased or decreased. By 50 "susceptibility" is intended that the viability of a cell contacted with the toxin is decreased. Thus the invention encompasses expressing the cell surface receptor polypeptides of the invention to increase susceptibility of a target cell or organ to Bt toxins. Such increases in toxin susceptibility are useful for medical and veterinary purposes in which eradication or reduction of viability of a group of cells is desired. Such increases in susceptibility are also useful for agricultural applications in which eradication or reduction of population of particular plant pests is desired.

Plant pests of interest include, but are not limited to insects, nematodes, and the like. Nematodes include parasitic nematodes such as root-knot, cyst, lesion, and renniform nematodes, etc.

The following examples are offered by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

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EXPERIMENTAL

Example 1

Isolation of EC Bt Toxin Receptor

Standard recombinant methods well known to those of ordinary skill in the art were carried out. For library construction, total RNA was isolated from the midgut of European corn borer (ECB), Ostrinia nubilalis. Corn borer larvae (for example, a mix of stage 2, 3, and 4, equal weight) can be pulverized in liquid nitrogen, homogenized, and total RNA extracted by standard procedures. PolyA RNA can be isolated from the total RNA with standard PolyA isolation procedures, such as the PolyATact system from Promega Corporation, Madison, Wis. cDNA synthesis can then be performed and, for example, unidirectional cDNA libraries can be constructed according to known and commercial procedures, such as the ZAP Express cDNA synthesis kit from Stratagene, La Jolla, Calif. cDNA can be amplified by PCR, sized and properly digested with restriction fragments to be ligated into a vector. Subcloned cDNA can be sequenced to identify sequences with the proper peptide to identity corresponding to published sequences. These fragments can be used to probe genomic or cDNA libraries corresponding to a specific host, such as Ostrinia nubilalis, to obtain a full length coding sequence. Probes can also be made based on Applicants disclosed sequences. The coding sequence can then be ligated into a desired expression cassette and used to transform a host cell according to standard transformation procedures. Such an expression cassette can be part of a commercially available vector and expression system; for example, the pET system from Novagen Inc. (Madison, Wis.). Additional vectors that 35 can be used for expression include pBKCMV, pBKRSV, pPbac and pMbac (Stratagene Inc.), pFASTBac1 (Gibco BRL) and other common bacterial, baculovirus, mammalian, and yeast expression vectors.

All vectors were constructed using standard molecular biology techniques as described for example in Sambrook et al., (1989) *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* (2nd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory: Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.).

Expression is tested by ligand blotting and testing for Bt toxin binding. Ligand blotting, binding, and toxicity are tested by known methods; for example, as described in Martinez-Ramirez (1994) *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 201: 782-787; Vadlamudi et al. (1995) *J Biol Chem* 270(10):5490-4, Keeton et al. (1998) *Appl Environ Microbiol* 64(6):2158-2165; Keeton et al. (1997) *Appl Environ Microbiol* 63(9): 3419-3425; Ihara et al. (1998) *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Part B* 120:197-204; Nagamatsu et al. (1998) *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.* 62(4):718-726 and Nagamatsu et al. (1998) *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.* 62(4):727-734.

Identifying the Cry1A(b) binding polypeptide in ECB was done by ligand blotting brush border membrane vesicle polypeptides and probing those polypeptides for binding with Cry1A(b) toxin. Two polypeptides, approximately 210 and 205 kDa, were found to bind to Cry1A(b). Blotting and binding were done essentially as described in the preceding paragraph.

Degenerate primers for RT-PCR were designed based on known Cry1 toxin binding polypeptide sequences from *Manducca sexta* and *Bombyx mori*. The primers are shown below. cDNA was constructed from total midgut RNA (cDNA synthesis kit GibcoBrL). Degenerate primers were used to amplify products of the expected size. The annealing

temperature used was 53° C. in generation of the 280 bp fragment and 55° C. when generating the 1.6 kb fragment.

A 280 bp fragment was obtained from ECB midgut RNA. Upon cloning and sequencing, the fragment was identified as having homology with the Bt toxin receptor 1 polypeptide 5 (BTR1) described in Vadlamudi et al. (1995) J Biol Chem 270(10):5490-4.

A similar approach was used to generate a 1.6 kilobase pair clone. The sequence of primers used to generate the 280 base pair fragment were:

5'GTTAMYGTGAGAGAGGCA-BTRD1S: Primer GAYCC3' (SEQ ID NO: 8), and

BTRD5A: 5'GGATRTTAAGMGTCAGY-Primer ACWCCG3' (SEQ ID NO: 9).

The sequence of primers used to generate the 1.6 kb fragment 15 were:

Primer BTRD6S: 5'TCCGAATTCTTCTTYAACCTCATC-GAYAACTT3' (SEQ ID NO: 10), and

Primer BTRD7A: 5'CGCAAGCTTACTTGGTCGATGT-TRCASGTCAT3' (SEQ ID NO: 11)

The 1.6 kb fragment clone was ligated in an *E. coli* expression vector, pET-28a-c(+), and expressed using the pET system (Novagen Inc., Madison, Wis.). Purified polypeptide encoded by this 1.6 kb fragment demonstrated binding to Cry1A(b) in ligand blots. An ECB midgut cDNA library was 25 generated and screened using this 1.6 kb clone, generating 120 positive plaques. Thirty of these plaques were chosen for secondary screening and fifteen of those plaques were purified and sent for DNA sequencing.

The obtained nucleotide sequence of the selected Bt toxin 30 receptor clone from ECB is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1. The total length of the clone is 5498 base pairs. The coding sequences are residues 162-5312. The Cry1A binding site is encoded by residues 4038-4547. The predicted transmembrane domain is encoded by residues 4872-4928. The corresponding deduced amino acid sequence for this Bt toxin receptor clone from ECB is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

The purified polypeptide generated from the 1.6 kb fragment set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 was used to inoculate rabbits for the production of polyclonal antibodies. On zoo western 40 blots prepared from brush border membrane vesicles from various insect species, this set of antibodies specifically recognized ECB Bt toxin receptor polypeptides, in comparison to Bt toxin receptor homologues polypeptides from other insect species. Rabbit polyclonal antibodies were also raised 45 from a purified polypeptide corresponding to amino acids 1293-1462 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Example 2

Isolation of CEW and FAW Bt Toxin Receptor Orthologues

cDNA encoding a full-length Bt toxin receptor from corn earworm (CEW, *Heliothis Zea*) was isolated. The nucleotide 55 sequence for this cDNA is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3. Nucleotides 171-5360 correspond to the open reading frame. Nucleotides 4917-4973 correspond to the transmembrane region. Nucleotides 4083-4589 correspond to the Cry1A binding site. The deduced corresponding amino acid 60 ECB Bt toxin receptor (Example 1) is used as first antibody. sequence for the CEW Bt toxin receptor is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4.

cDNA encoding a full-length Bt toxin receptor from fall armyworm (FAW, Spodoptera frugiperda) was isolated. The nucleotide sequence for this cDNA is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 65 5. Nucleotides 162-5363 correspond to the open reading frame. Nucleotides 4110-4616 correspond to the Cry1A

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binding site. Nucleotides 4941-4997 correspond to the transmembrane region. Nucleotides 162-227 correspond to a signal peptide. The deduced corresponding amino acid sequence for the FAW Bt toxin receptor is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6.

Example 3

Binding and Cell Death in Lepidopteran Insect Cells Expressing the Bt Toxin Receptors of the Invention

An in vitro system is developed to demonstrate the functionality of a Bt toxin receptor of the invention. The results disclosed in this example demonstrate that the ECB Bt toxin receptor of the invention (SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 2) is specifically involved in the binding and killing action of Cry1Ab toxin.

Well known molecular biological methods are used in cloning and expressing the ECB Bt toxin receptor in Sf9 cells. 20 A baculovirus expression system (Gibco BRL Catalogue No. 10359-016) is used according to the manufacturer's provided protocols and as described below. S. frugiperda (Sf9) cells obtained from ATCC (ATCC-CRL 1711) are grown at 27° C. in Sf-900 II serum free medium (Gibco BRL, Catalogue No. 10902-088). These cells, which are not susceptible to Cry1Ab toxin, are transfected with an expression construct (pFast-Bac1 bacmid, Gibco BRL catalogue NO. 10360-014) comprising an operably linked Bt toxin receptor of the invention (SEQ ID NO: 1) downstream of a polyhedrin promoter. Transfected Sf9 cells express the ECB Bt toxin receptor and are lysed in the presence of Cry1Ab toxin. Toxin specificities, binding parameters, such as Kd values, and half maximal doses for cellular death and/or toxicity are also determined.

For generating expression constructs, the ECB Bt toxin receptor cDNA (SEQ ID NO: 1) is subjected to appropriate restriction digestion, and the resulting cDNA comprising the full-length coding region is ligated into the donor plasmid pFastBac1 multiple cloning site. Following transformation and subsequent transposition, recombinant bacmid DNA comprising the ECB Bt toxin receptor (RBECB1) is isolated. As a control, recombinant bacmid DNA comprising the reporter gene β-glucuronidase (RBGUS) is similarly constructed and isolated.

For transfection, 2 µg each RBECB1 or RBGUS DNA is mixed with 6 µl of CellFectin (GibcoBRL catalogue NO. 10362-010) in 100 μl of Sf900 medium, and incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. The mixture is then diluted with 0.8 ml Sf-900 medium. Sf9 cells (10⁶/ml per 35 mm well) are washed once with Sf-900 medium, mixed with the 50 DNA/CellFectin mixture, added to the well, and incubated at room temperature for 5 hours. The medium is removed and 2 ml of Sf-900 medium containing penicillin and streptomycin is added to the well. 3-5 days after transfection, Western blotting is used to examine protein expression.

For Western blotting, 100 µl of cell lysis buffer (50 mM Tris, pH7.8, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Nonidet P-40) is added to the well. The cells are scraped and subjected to 16,000×g centrifugation. Pellet and supernatant are separated and subjected to Western blotting. An antibody preparation against Alkaline phosphatase-labelled anti-rabbit IgG is used as secondary antibody. Western blot results indicate that the full length ECB Bt toxin receptor of the invention (SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 2) is expressed in the cell membrane of these cells.

For determining GUS activity, the medium of the cells transfected with RBGUS is removed. The cells and the medium are separately mixed with GUS substrate and

assayed for the well known enzymatic activity. GUS activity assays indicate that this reporter gene is actively expressed in the transfected cells.

For determining toxin susceptibility, Cry toxins including but not limited to Cry1A, Cry1B, Cry1C, Cry1D, Cry1E, Cry1F, Cry1I, Cry2, Cry3, and Cry9 toxins (Schnepf E. et al. (1998) Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews 62(3): 775-806) are prepared by methods known in the art. Crystals are dissolved in pH 10.0, 50 mM carbonate buffer and treated with trypsin. Active fragments of Cry proteins are purified by chromatography. Three to five days after transfection, cells are washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Different concentrations of active fragments of Cry toxins are applied to the cells. At different time intervals, the cells are examined 15 under the microscope to readily determine susceptibility to the toxins. Alternatively, cell death, viability and/or toxicity is quantified by methods well known in the art. See, for example, In Situ Cell Death Detection Kits available from Roche Biochemicals (Catalogue Nos. 2 156 792, 1 684 809, and 1 684 817), and LIVE/DEAD® Viability/Cytotoxicity Kit available from Molecular Probes (catalogue No. L-3224).

A dose-dependent response of RBECB1-transfected cells to Cry1Ab is readily observed, with determined Kd values well within the range for many receptors. Control cells, e.g. 25 those transfected with pFastBac1 bacmid without an insert or those transfected with RBGus are not significantly affected by Cry1Ab. Interaction with other Cry toxins are similarly characterized.

This in vitro system is not only be used to verify the functionality of putative Bt-toxin receptors, but also used as a tool to determine the active site(s) and other functional domains of the toxin and the receptor. Furthermore, the system is used as a cell-based high throughput screen. For example, methods for distinguishing live versus dead cells by differential dyes are known in the art. This allows for aliquots of transfected cells to be treated with various toxin samples and to serve as a means for screening the toxin samples for desired specificity or binding characteristics. Since the system is used to identify the specificity of Cry protein receptors, it is a useful tool in insect resistance management.

Example 4

Expression of the ECB Bt Toxin Receptor in Toxin Susceptible Stages of the Insect's Life Cycle

Total RNA was isolated from the eggs, pupae, adults, and the 1st through the 5th instar developmental stages, using 50 TRIzol Reagent (Gibco BRL) essentially as instructed by the manufacturer. (Gibco BRL). The RNA was quantitated and 20 ug of each sample was loaded onto a formaldehyde agarose gel and electrophoresed at constant voltage. The RNA was then transferred to a nylon membrane via neutral capillary transfer and cross-linked to the membrane using ultraviolet light. For hybridization, a 460 base pair ECB Bt toxin receptor DNA probe (bases 3682 to 4141 in SEQ ID NO: 1) was constructed from a 460 base pair fragment prepared according to the manufacturer's protocol for Amersham 60 Rediprime II random prime labeling system. The denatured probe was added to the membrane that had been prehybridized for at least 3 hours at 65° C. and allowed to incubate with gentle agitation for at least 12 hours at 65° C. Following hybridization, the membranes were washed at 65° C. for 1 65 hour with $\frac{1}{4} \times 0.5$ M NaCl, 0.1M NaPO4 (ph 7.0), 6 mM EDTA and 1% SDS solution followed by two 1 hour washes

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in the above solution without SDS. The membrane was air dried briefly, wrapped in Saran Wrap and exposed to X-ray film.

An ECB Bt toxin receptor transcript of 5.5 kilobase was expressed strongly in the larval instars with much reduced expression in the pupal stage. The expression levels appeared to be fairly consistent from first to fifth instar, while decreasing markedly in the pupal stage. There were no detectable transcripts in either the egg or adult stages. These results indicate that the ECB Bt toxin transcript is being produced in the susceptible stages of the insects life cycle, while not being produced in stages resistant to the toxic effects of Cry1Ab.

Example 5

Tissue and Subcellular Expression of the ECB Bt Toxin Receptor

Fifth instar ECB were dissected to isolate the following tissues: fat body (FB), malpighian tubules (MT), hind gut (HG), anterior midgut (AM) and posterior midgut (PM). Midguts from fifth instar larvae were also isolated for brush border membrane vesicle (BBMV) preparation using the well known protocol by Wolfersberger et al. (1987) Comp. Biochem. Physiol. 86A:301-308. Tissues were homogenized in Tris buffered saline, 0.1% tween-20, centrifuged to pellet insoluble material, and transferred to a fresh tube. 50 ug of protein from each preparation was added to SDS sample buffer and B-mercaptoethanol, heated to 100° C. for 10 minutes and loaded onto a 4-12% Bis-Tris gel (Novex). After electrophoresis, the proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane using a semi-dry apparatus. The membrane was blocked in 5% nonfat dry milk buffer for 1 hour at room temperature with gentle agitation. The primary antibody (Example 1) was added to a final dilution of 1:5000 and allowed to hybridize for 1 hour. The blot was then washed three times for 20 minutes each in nonfat milk buffer. The blot was then hybridized with the secondary antibody (goat anti-rabbit with alkaline phosphatase conjugate) at a dilution of 1:10000 for 1 hour at room temperature. Washes were performed as before. The bands were visualized by using the standard chemiluminescent protocol (Tropix western light protein detection kit).

The ECB Bt toxin receptor protein was only visible in the BBMV enriched lane, and not detected in any of the other ECB tissues types. This result indicates that the expression of the ECB Bt toxin receptor protein is at very low levels, since the BBMV preparation is a 20-30 fold enriched fraction of the midgut brush border. The result supports propositions that the ECB Bt toxin receptor is an integral membrane protein uniquely associated with the brush border. It also demonstrates that the ECB Bt toxin receptor is expressed in the envisioned target tissue for Cry1Ab toxins. However, the result does not necessarily rule out expression in other tissue types, albeit the expression of this protein in those tissues may be lower than in the BBMV enriched fraction.

All publications and patent applications mentioned in the specification are indicative of the level of those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains. All publications and patent applications are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be obvious that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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ttaaacctga aaaaaaccgg tgtttaagtg gaatttttgc tgaaggacaa ccgtgggata	120												
gctcaaatat taaaattcta cataactaag gatcatgcaa a atg ggg gtt gag agg Met Gly Val Glu Arg 1 5	176												
ttc ttc cca gca gtg cta ctg gtc tct tta gcc tct gcc gca cta gcc Phe Phe Pro Ala Val Leu Leu Val Ser Leu Ala Ser Ala Ala Leu Ala 10 15 20	224												
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Asp Pro	o S∈	er.	Asp	Trp	Phe 235	Asn	Met	Lys	Met	Thr 240	Val	Gly	Ile	Asn	Ser 245			
ccc tto	_		Phe				_					_	_		_	944		
tct gad Ser Asp		r		_				_	_		_	_				992		
gag aad Glu Asr	_	1						_								1040		
cag cag Gln Glr 299	n Ph		_		_				_				_			1088		
gac ggg Asp Gly 310			_					_								1136		
gat gad Asp Asp																1184		
att cto	- .	.s					_	_	_	_		_	_			1232		
ttc aac Phe Asr		u			_	_					_	_	_		_	1280		
aca gag Thr Glu 379	u Al		_					_		Āsp	_		_	_	_	1328		
ccc gag Pro Glu 390	_	_	_			_		_		_		_		_		1376		
cca ato	_						_	_					_	_	_	1424		
ttg ggt Leu Gly	_	u.		_					_			_			_	1472		
cca ggg		ā.			_					_		_			_	1520		
agg cag Arg Glr 459	n Th				_					_		_	_	_		1568		
gaa gat Glu Asr 470	_				_					_	_		_		_	1616		
atg aad Met Asr			_	_						_					_	1664		
atc aad Ile Asr	_	p.		_	_							_	_			1712		
gcg tcg Ala Sei	_	ıe	_			_		_			_		_	_		1760		
ctc gcc Leu Ala 535	a Le		_	_	_		_	_	_	_				_	_	1808		
ggc aac	c go	t.	gtt	gac	tac	ctg	ttc	ata	gat	gaa	tca	acg	gga	gag	atc	1856		

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Gly 550	Asn	Ala	Val	Asp	Tyr 555	Leu	Phe	Ile	Asp	Glu 560	Ser	Thr	Gly	Glu	Ile 565	
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	gtg Val		Thr	_	_			_	_		_	_	Asn			2000
	ccc Pro 615			_	_		Arg	_			_	_				2048
_	ccc Pro	_							_			_		_	_	2096
_	acc Thr	_	_		_					_		_				2144
_	acc Thr	_			_				Pro		_		_		_	2192
	gtt Val															2240
_	999 Gly 695	Arg					Glu	_		Āsp			_	_	_	2288
	gag Glu	_			_					_	_			_		2336
	act Thr	_			_	_		_			_		_			2384
	atc Ile	_	_		_			_						_	_	2432
_	cag Gln	_	_	_		_		_		_	_		_			2480
	tcc Ser 775			_		_		_		_						2528
_	tac Tyr					_									_	2576
	gac Asp									_						2624
_	gca Ala	_	_			_			_				_		_	2672
_	gac Asp		Cys		_	_		_	_	_	_		Pro	_		2720
	tac Tyr 855		_	_			_		_		_			_		2768
aac	aac	aaa	gtg	cct	gag	ccg	ctc	act	gag	aag	ttc	aac	acg	acg	gtg	2816

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Asn 870	Asn	Lys	Val	Pro	Glu 875	Pro	Leu	Thr	Glu	880 Lys	Phe	Asn	Thr	Thr	Val 885		
	_				gcc Ala	_	_		_			_	_	_		2864	
					aga Arg					_						2912	
_					aac Asn		_	_		_					_	2960	
_	_			_	ctt Leu					_		_			_	3008	
_	_	_		_	gag Glu 955			_				_				3056	
_					gat Asp	Gly	Asp	Gly		Arg		_	_	_	_	3104	
_			_	_	cta Leu	_	_			_		_			_	3152	
	_		Āsp	_	ctc Leu			Āsp	_		_		Āla	_	_	3200	
	_	Arg	_		cca Pro	_	Ile		_	_	_	Arg	_	_		3248	
_	Thr	_		_	cgt Arg 103!	Val				_	Leu	_			_	3296	
	_	_	_		gag Glu 0		_	_		Phe		_		_	Ile	3344	
_				Gly	gaa Glu				Āla	_	_	_		Gly		3392	
			Tyr		ata Ile			Glu					Gly		_	3440	
_	_	Arg			gag Glu	_	Tyr		_	_		Arg				3488	
	His				ttc Phe 111!	Val		_			Asp		_			3536	
				_	gca Ala 0		_			Val	_		_	_	Āla	3584	
			_	Glu	ccg Pro			_	Thr	_		_		Leu	_	3632	
		_	Val	_	ttc Phe	_	_	Gln					Āla	_	_	3680	
		Āsp			gaa Glu		Gly	_		_		Ser		_		3728	
a † 2	tta	cac	cac	c++	ttc	C C a	aaa	caa	atc	ada	caa	tta	add	atc	acd	3776	

3776

ata tta cgc cag ctt ttc cca gag caa atc aga caa ttc agg atc acg

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		-continuea	
Ile Leu Arg Gln Leu 1190	ı Phe Pro Glu Gln Ile Arg 1195 120	-	
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	gtc ttc gta ccc aca cag Val Phe Val Pro Thr Gln 1230		3872
	act gtc gcc ttc ttc gag Thr Val Ala Phe Phe Glu 1245		3920
	g ctg ccg caa gca gaa gac Leu Pro Gln Ala Glu Asp 1260		3968
	caa gat atc tac tac agg Gln Asp Ile Tyr Tyr Arg 1275 128	Phe Ile Asp Gly Asn	4016
Asn Glu Gly Leu Phe	gta ctg gac cag tca ago Val Leu Asp Gln Ser Ser 1295	Asn Val Ile Ser Leu	4064
	cgc gag gtg gcc acg tct Arg Glu Val Ala Thr Ser 1310		4112
	ccc gac gcc act ggg atc Pro Asp Ala Thr Gly Ile 1325	5 5	4160
	gtc aat gta aga gaa gcg Val Asn Val Arg Glu Ala 1340		4208
	tac aca gcg ggc att tcg Tyr Thr Ala Gly Ile Ser 1355 136	Thr Leu Asp Ser Ile	4256
	act gtc agg gcg agc cac Thr Val Arg Ala Ser His 70 1375		4304
_	gac cgt gcg agc atg cag Asp Arg Ala Ser Met Gln 1390		4352
	tcg gcc ttc gcg ctg cat Ser Ala Phe Ala Leu His 1405		4400
•	g cag ccc acc gct tcc atg : Gln Pro Thr Ala Ser Met 1420		4448
0 0	acg gat aca gct tct gca Thr Asp Thr Ala Ser Ala 1435 144	Ile Asp Thr Ala Arg	4496
5 5	atc tca tcg caa aac cgc l Ile Ser Ser Gln Asn Arg 10 1455	5 5	4544
	acc gtt gag cag aac aga Thr Val Glu Gln Asn Arg 1470		4592
	ttc aac atg acg tgc aac Phe Asn Met Thr Cys Asn 1485		4640
	agc ggc gtg gcg caa gac Ser Gly Val Ala Gln Asp 1500		4688
cgc gcg cac ttc atc	cgg gac aac gtg ccc gtg	cag gca caa gag gtc	4736

3 7	
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Arg Ala His Phe Ile Arg Asp Asn Val Pro Val Gln Ala Gln Glu Val 1510 1525	
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ctg agc acc aac agc ctg gtg ctg caa gac ctg gtg acg ggt gac act Leu Ser Thr Asn Ser Leu Val Leu Gln Asp Leu Val Thr Gly Asp Thr 1545 1550 1555	4832
ccg acg cta ggc gag gag tca atg cag atc gcc gtc tac gca cta gcc Pro Thr Leu Gly Glu Glu Ser Met Gln Ile Ala Val Tyr Ala Leu Ala 1560 1565 1570	4880
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gcg ccg ggc acc aac aag cac gcc gtc gag ggc tcc aac ccc atg tgg Ala Pro Gly Thr Asn Lys His Ala Val Glu Gly Ser Asn Pro Met Trp 1625 1630 1635	5072
aac gag gcc atc cgc gcg ccc gac ttc gac gcc atc agt gac gcg agt Asn Glu Ala Ile Arg Ala Pro Asp Phe Asp Ala Ile Ser Asp Ala Ser 1640 1645 1650	5120
ggc gac tcc gac ctg atc ggc atc gag gac atg ccg caa ttc cgc gac Gly Asp Ser Asp Leu Ile Gly Ile Glu Asp Met Pro Gln Phe Arg Asp 1655 1660 1665	5168
gac tac ttc ccg ccc ggc gac aca gac tca agc agc ggc atc gtc ttg Asp Tyr Phe Pro Pro Gly Asp Thr Asp Ser Ser Ser Gly Ile Val Leu 1670 1685	5216
cac atg ggc gaa gcc acg gac aac aag ccc gtg acc acg cat ggc aac His Met Gly Glu Ala Thr Asp Asn Lys Pro Val Thr Thr His Gly Asn 1690 1695 1700	5264
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Ser Ala Ala Leu Ala Asn Gln Arg Cys Ser Tyr Ile Ile Ala Ile Pro 20 25 30	
Ard Dro Clu Thr Dro Clu Leu Dro Dro Ile Adn Twr Clu Clw Iwd Ser	

Trp Ser Glu Gln Pro Leu Ile Pro Gly Pro Thr Arg Glu Glu Val Cys 50 55

Met Glu Asn Phe Leu Pro Asp Gln Met Ile Gln Val Ile Tyr Met Glu

Arg Pro Glu Thr Pro Glu Leu Pro Pro Ile Asp Tyr Glu Gly Lys Ser

45

40

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65					70					75					80
Glu	Glu	Ile	Glu	Gly 85	Asp	Val	Ile	Ile	Ala 90	Lys	Leu	Asn	Tyr	Gln 95	Gly
Ser	Asn	Thr	Pro 100	Val	Leu	Ser	Ile	Met 105	Ser	Gly	Gln	Pro	Arg 110	Ala	Gln
Leu	Gly	Pro 115	Glu	Phe	Arg	Gln	Asn 120	Glu	Ala	Asp	Gly	Gln 125	Trp	Ser	Leu
Val	Ile 130	Thr	Gln	Arg	Gln	Asp 135	-	Glu	Thr	Ala	Thr 140	Met	Gln	Ser	Tyr
Val 145	Phe	Ser	Ile	Gln	Val 150	Glu	Gly	Glu	Ser	Gln 155	Ala	Val	Leu	Val	Ala 160
Leu	Glu	Ile	Val	Asn 165	Ile	Asp	Asp	Asn	Pro 170	Pro	Ile	Leu	Gln	Val 175	Val
Ser	Ala	Cys	Val 180	Ile	Pro	Glu	His	Gly 185		Ala	Arg	Leu	Thr 190	Asp	Cys
Val	Tyr		Val		_	_	_	_					_	Phe	Met
Thr	Phe 210	Arg	Val	Asp	Ser	Ser 215	Arg	Ala	Ala	Asp	Glu 220	Ser	Ile	Phe	Tyr
Met 225	Val	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Asp 230	Pro	Ser	Asp	Trp	Phe 235	Asn	Met	Lys	Met	Thr 240
Val	Gly	Ile	Asn	Ser 245	Pro	Leu	Asn	Phe	Glu 250	Thr	Thr	Gln	Leu	His 255	Ile
Phe	Ser	Val	Thr 260	Ala	Ser	Asp	Ser	Leu 265	Pro	Asn	Asn	His	Thr 270	Val	Thr
Met	Met	Val 275	Gln	Val	Glu	Asn	Val 280	Glu	Ser	Arg	Pro	Pro 285	Arg	Trp	Val
Glu	Ile 290	Phe	Ser	Val	Gln	Gln 295	Phe	Asp	Glu	Lys	Thr 300	Asn	Gln	Ser	Phe
Ser 305	Leu	Arg	Ala	Ile	Asp 310	Gly	Asp	Thr	Gly	Ile 315	Asn	Arg	Ala	Ile	Asn 320
Tyr	Thr	Leu	Ile		Asp		Ala	Asp	Asp 330	Phe	Phe	Ser	Leu	Glu 335	Val
Ile	Glu	Asp	_		Ile							_	_	Asp	Lys
Leu	Glu	Arg 355	Glu	Leu	Phe	Asn	Leu 360	Thr	Ile	Val	Ala	Tyr 365	Lys	Ser	Thr
Asp	Ala 370	Ser	Phe	Ala	Thr	Glu 375	Ala	His	Ile	Phe	Ile 380	Ile	Val	Asn	Asp
Val 385	Asn	Asp	Gln	Arg	Pro 390	Glu	Pro	Leu	His	Lys 395	Glu	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Asp 400
Ile	Met	Glu	Glu	Thr 405	Pro	Met	Thr	Leu	Asn 410	Phe	Asn	Glu	Glu	Phe 415	Gly
Phe	His	Asp	Arg 420	Asp	Leu	Gly	Glu	Asn 425	Ala	Gln	Tyr	Thr	Val 430	Glu	Leu
Glu	Asp	Val 435	Phe	Pro	Pro	Gly	Ala 440	Ala	Ser	Ala	Phe	Tyr 445	Ile	Ala	Pro
Gly	Ser 450	Gly	Tyr	Gln	Arg	Gln 455	Thr	Phe	Ile	Met	Gly 460	Thr	Ile	Asn	His
Thr 465	Met	Leu	Asp	Tyr	Glu 470	Asp	Val	Ile	Phe	Gln 475	Asn	Ile	Ile	Ile	Lys 480
Val	Lys	Ala	Val	Asp 485			Asn					Gly		Ala 495	Leu

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											_	con	tin	ued	
Val	Tyr	Val	Asn 500	Leu	Ile	Asn	Trp	Asn 505	Asp	Glu	Leu	Pro	Ile 510	Phe	Glu
Glu	Ser	Ser 515	Tyr	Ser	Ala	Ser	Phe 520	Lys	Glu	Thr	Val	Gly 525	Ala	Gly	Phe
Pro	Val 530	Ala	Thr	Val	Leu	Ala 535	Leu	Asp	Arg	Asp	Ile 540	Asp	Asp	Val	Val
Val 545	His	Ser	Leu	Met	Gly 550	Asn	Ala	Val	Asp	Tyr 555	Leu	Phe	Ile	Asp	Glu 560
Ser	Thr	Gly	Glu	Ile 565	Phe	Val	Ser	Met	Asp 570	Asp	Ala	Phe	Asp	Tyr 575	His
Arg	Gln	Asn	Thr 580	Leu	Phe	Val	Gln	Val 585	Arg	Ala	Asp	Asp	Thr 590	Leu	Gly
Asp	Gly	Pro 595	His	Asn	Thr	Val	Thr 600	Thr	Gln	Leu	Val	Ile 605	Glu	Leu	Glu
Asp	Val 610	Asn	Asn	Thr	Pro	Pro 615	Thr	Leu	Arg	Leu	Pro 620	Arg	Ser	Thr	Pro
Ser 625	Val	Glu	Glu	Asn	Val 630	Pro	Glu	Gly	Tyr	Glu 635	Ile	Ser	Arg	Glu	Ile 640
Thr	Ala	Thr	Asp	Pro 645	Asp	Thr	Ser	Ala	Tyr 650	Leu	Trp	Phe	Glu	Ile 655	Asp
Trp	Asp	Ser	Thr 660	Trp	Ala	Thr	Lys	Gln 665	Gly	Arg	Glu	Thr	Asn 670	Pro	Thr
Glu	Tyr	Val 675	Gly	Cys	Ile	Val	Ile 680	Glu	Thr	Ile	Tyr	Pro 685	Thr	Glu	Gly
Asn	Arg 690	Gly	Ser	Ala	Ile	Gly 695	Arg	Leu	Val	Val	Gln 700	Glu	Ile	Arg	Asp
Asn 705	Val	Thr	Ile	Asp	Phe 710	Glu	Glu	Phe	Glu	Met 715	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Thr	Val 720
Arg	Val	Arg	Asp	Leu 725	Asn	Thr	Val	Ile	Gly 730	Asp	Asp	Tyr	Asp	Glu 735	Ala
Thr	Phe	Thr	Ile 740	Thr	Ile	Ile	Asp	Met 745	Asn	Asp	Asn	Ala	Pro 750	Ile	Phe
Ala	Asn	Gly 755	Thr	Leu	Thr	Gln	Thr 760	Met	Arg	Val	Arg	Glu 765	Leu	Ala	Ala
Ser	Gly 770	Thr	Leu	Ile	Gly	Ser 775	Val	Leu	Ala	Thr	Asp 780	Ile	Asp	Gly	Pro
Leu 785	Tyr	Asn	Gln	Val	Arg 790	Tyr	Thr	Ile	Gln	Pro 795	Arg	Asn	Asn	Thr	Pro 800
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Сув	Pro 850	Pro	Asp	Ser	Asn	Tyr 855	Phe	Glu	Val	Pro	Gly 860	Asp	Ile	Glu	Ile
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Thr	Val	Arg 915	Tyr	Thr	Met	Asn	Phe 920	Ala	Val	Asn	Pro	Arg 925	Leu	Arg	Asp

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Gly 945	Asp	Glu	Lys	Leu	Asp 950	Arg	Asp	Gly	Asp	Glu 955	Pro	Thr	His	Thr	Ile 960
Phe	Val	Asn	Phe	Ile 965	Asp	Asn	Phe	Phe	Ser 970	Asp	Gly	Asp	Gly	Arg 975	Arg
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Asp 1029	_	Asp	Glu	Pro	Asp 1030		Asp	Asn	Ser	Arg 1035		Gly	Tyr	Gly	Ile 1040
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Glu	Asp	Gly 1159		His	Ala	Gly	Ser 1160		Thr	Phe	His	Val 1165	Gln 5	Gly	Asn
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Asn 1189		Gly	Gln	Leu	Ile 1190		Arg	Gln	Leu	Phe 1199		Glu	Gln	Ile	Arg 1200
Gln	Phe	Arg	Ile	Thr 120		Arg	Ala	Thr	Asp 1210	_	Gly	Thr	Glu	Pro 1215	_
Pro	Leu	Trp	Thr 1220	_	Val	Thr	Phe	Ser 1225		Val	Phe	Val	Pro 1230		Gln
Gly	Asp	Pro 1235		Phe	Ser	Glu	Asn 1240		Ala	Thr	Val	Ala 1245	Phe 5	Phe	Glu
Gly	Glu 1250		Gly	Leu	Arg	Glu 1255		Phe	Glu	Leu	Pro 1260		Ala	Glu	Asp
Leu 1269	_	Asn	His	Leu	Cys 1270		Asp	Asp	Cys	Gln 1279		Ile	Tyr	Tyr	Arg 1280
Phe	Ile	Asp	Gly	Asn 1289		Glu	Gly	Leu	Phe 1290		Leu	Asp	Gln	Ser 1295	
Asn	Val	Ile	Ser 1300		Ala	Gln	Glu	Leu 1309	_	Arg	Glu	Val	Ala 1310		Ser
Tyr	Thr	Leu 131		Ile	Ala	Ala	Ser 1320		Ser	Pro	Asp	Ala 1325	Thr 5	Gly	Ile
Pro	Leu 1330		Thr	Ser	Ile	Leu 1335		Val	Thr	Val	Asn 134		Arg	Glu	Ala

Asn Pro Arg Pro Ile Phe Glu Gln Asp Leu Tyr Thr Ala Gly Ile Ser

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Thr Leu Asp Ser Ile Gly Arg Glu Leu Leu Thr Val Arg Ala Ser His Thr Glu Asp Asp Thr Ile Thr Tyr Thr Ile Asp Arg Ala Ser Met Gln Leu Asp Ser Ser Leu Glu Ala Val Arg Asp Ser Ala Phe Ala Leu His Ala Thr Thr Gly Val Leu Ser Leu Asn Met Gln Pro Thr Ala Ser Met His Gly Met Phe Glu Phe Asp Val Ile Ala Thr Asp Thr Ala Ser Ala Ile Asp Thr Ala Arg Val Lys Val Tyr Leu Ile Ser Ser Gln Asn Arg Val Thr Phe Ile Phe Asp Asn Gln Leu Glu Thr Val Glu Gln Asn Arg Asn Phe Ile Ala Ala Thr Phe Ser Thr Gly Phe Asn Met Thr Cys Asn Ile Asp Gln Val Val Pro Phe Ser Asp Ser Ser Gly Val Ala Gln Asp Asp Thr Thr Glu Val Arg Ala His Phe Ile Arg Asp Asn Val Pro Val Gln Ala Gln Glu Val Glu Ala Val Arg Ser Asp Thr Val Leu Leu Arg Thr Ile Gln Leu Met Leu Ser Thr Asn Ser Leu Val Leu Gln Asp Leu Val Thr Gly Asp Thr Pro Thr Leu Gly Glu Glu Ser Met Gln Ile Ala Val Tyr Ala Leu Ala Ala Leu Ser Ala Val Leu Gly Phe Leu Cys Leu Val Leu Leu Ala Leu Phe Cys Arg Thr Arg Ala Leu Asn Arg Gln Leu Gln Ala Leu Ser Met Thr Lys Tyr Gly Ser Val Asp Ser Gly Leu Asn Arg Ala Gly Leu Ala Pro Gly Thr Asn Lys His Ala Val Glu Gly Ser Asn Pro Met Trp Asn Glu Ala Ile Arg Ala Pro Asp Phe Asp Ala Ile Ser Asp Ala Ser Gly Asp Ser Asp Leu Ile Gly Ile Glu Asp Met Pro Gln Phe Arg Asp Asp Tyr Phe Pro Pro Gly Asp Thr Asp Ser Ser Ser Gly Ile Val Leu His Met Gly Glu Ala Thr Asp Asn Lys Pro Val Thr Thr His Gly Asn Asn Phe Gly Phe Lys Ser Thr Pro Tyr Leu Pro Gln Pro His Pro Lys <210> SEQ ID NO 3 <211> LENGTH: 5527 <212> TYPE: DNA <213> ORGANISM: Heliothis zea <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: CDS

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ttg gt Leu Va	_	_			_		_	_							3920		

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		t gtg ctg att gtg ttc al Val Leu Leu Ile Val Phe 1600	4976
		gc ttg caa gct ctg tcc atg ng Leu Gln Ala Leu Ser Met 1615	5024
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Ala Pro Gly Thr Asn		ag ggc tcc aac ccc atc tgg Lu Gly Ser Asn Pro Ile Trp 1645 1650	5120
	Ala Pro Asp Phe As	ac gct ctt agc gag cag tcg sp Ala Leu Ser Glu Gln Ser 560 1665	5168
•		ac ttg ccg cag ttc agg aac sp Leu Pro Gln Phe Arg Asn 1680	5216
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Asn Ser Thr Pro Phe		eg aac acg cag ttc aga aga La Asn Thr Gln Phe Arg Arg 1725 1730	5360
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Arg Gly Thr Asn Thr 100	Pro Thr Ile Val Se	er Pro Phe Ser Phe Gly Thr 110	

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Ala	Thr	Val	Met	Leu 165	Leu	Ile	Val	Asn	Ile 170	Asp	Asp	Asn	Asp	Pro 175	Ile
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Ile	Thr	Ser 195	Сув	Lys	Tyr	Thr	Val 200	Ser	Asp	Ala	Asp	Gly 205	Glu	Ile	Ser
Thr	Arg 210	Phe	Met	Arg	Phe	Glu 215	Ile	Ser	Ser	Asp	Arg 220	Asp	Asp	Asp	Glu
Tyr 225	Phe	Glu	Leu	Val	Arg 230	Glu	Asn	Ile	Gln	Gly 235	Gln	Trp	Met	Tyr	Val 240
His	Met	Arg	Val	His 245	Val	Lys	Lys	Pro	Leu 250	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Glu	Asn 255	Pro
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Thr	Val	Thr 275	Met	Met	Val	Gln	Val 280	Glu	Asn	Val	Glu	Asn 285	Arg	Pro	Pro
Arg	Trp 290	Met	Glu	Ile	Phe	Ala 295	Val	Gln	Gln	Phe	Asp 300	Glu	Lys	Thr	Glu
Gln 305	Ser	Phe	Arg	Val	Arg 310	Ala	Ile	Asp	Gly	Asp 315	Thr	Gly	Ile	Asp	Lys 320
Pro	Ile	Phe	Tyr	Arg 325	Ile	Glu	Thr	Glu	Lys 330	Gly	Glu	Glu	Asp	Leu 335	Phe
Ser	Ile	Gln	Thr 340	Ile	Glu	Gly	Gly	Arg 345	Glu	Gly	Ala	Trp	Phe 350	Asn	Val
Ala	Pro	Ile 355	Asp	Arg	Asp	Thr	Leu 360	Glu	Lys	Glu	Val	Phe 365	His	Val	Ser
Ile	Ile 370	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Tyr	Gly 375	Asp	Asn	Asp	Val	Glu 380	Gly	Ser	Ser	Ser
Phe 385	Gln	Ser	Lys	Thr	Asp 390	Val	Val	Ile	Ile	Val 395	Asn	Asp	Val	Asn	Asp 400
Gln	Ala	Pro	Leu	Pro 405	Phe	Arg	Glu	Glu	Tyr 410	Ser	Ile	Glu	Ile	Met 415	Glu
Glu	Thr	Ala	Met 420	Thr	Leu	Asn	Leu	Glu 425	Asp	Phe	Gly	Phe	His 430	Asp	Arg
Asp	Leu	Gly 435	Pro	His	Ala	Gln	Tyr 440	Thr	Val	His	Leu	Glu 445	Ser	Ile	His
Pro	Pro 450	Arg	Ala	His	Glu	Ala 455	Phe	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Pro 460	Glu	Val	Gly	Tyr
Gln 465	Arg	Gln	Ser	Phe	Ile 470	Met	Gly	Thr	Gln	Asn 475	His	His	Met	Leu	Asp 480
Phe	Glu	Val	Pro	Glu 485	Phe	Gln	Asn	Ile	Gln 490	Leu	Arg	Ala	Val	Ala 495	Ile
Asp	Met	Asp	Asp 500	Pro	Lys	Trp	Val	Gly 505	Ile	Ala	Ile	Ile	Asn 510	Ile	Lys
Leu	Ile	Asn 515	Trp	Asn	Asp	Glu	Leu 520	Pro	Met	Phe	Glu	Ser 525	Asp	Val	Gln
Thr	Val 530	Ser	Phe	Asp	Glu	Thr 535	Glu	Gly	Ala	Gly	Phe 540	Tyr	Val	Ala	Thr
Val 545	Val	Ala	Lys	Asp	Arg 550	Asp	Val	Gly	Asp	Lуз 555	Val	Glu	His	Ser	Leu 560

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Thr	Asn 610	Thr	Thr	Gln	Leu	Val 615	Ile	Lys	Leu	Arg	Asp 620	Ile	Asn	Asn	Thr
Pro 625	Pro	Thr	Leu	Arg	Leu 630	Pro	Arg	Ala	Thr	Pro 635	Ser	Val	Glu	Glu	Asn 640
Val	Pro	Asp	Gly	Phe 645	Val	Ile	Pro	Thr	Gln 650	Leu	His	Ala	Thr	Asp 655	Pro
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945			Gly		950	-				955		_			960
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Pro Glu Th 1010	nr Ile	Pro Tr	Ala 101		Ser	Glu	Ser	Leu 1020		Leu	Gly	Glu
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Asn Ser Gl	_		∍ Thr	Val	_			Thr	Asn			
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Thr Phe Thr Ala Phe Phe Gly Met Thr Cys Asn Ile Asp Gln Ser Trp 1490 1495 1500

Trp Ala Ser Asp Pro Val Thr Gly Ala Thr Lys Asp Asp Gln Thr Glu 1505 1510 1515

Val Arg Ala His Phe Ile Arg Asp Asp Leu Pro Val Pro Ala Glu Glu 1525 1530 1535

Ile Glu Gln Leu Arg Gly Asn Pro Thr Leu Val Asn Ser Ile Gln Arg 1540 1545

Ala Leu Glu Glu Gln Asn Leu Gln Leu Ala Asp Leu Phe Thr Gly Glu 1555 1560 1565

Thr Pro Ile Leu Gly Gly Asp Ala Gln Ala Arg Ala Leu Tyr Ala Leu 1570 1580

Val Phe Phe Val Arg Thr Arg Thr Leu Asn Arg Arg Leu Gln Ala Leu 1605 1610 1615

Ser Met Thr Lys Tyr Ser Ser Gln Asp Ser Gly Leu Asn Arg Val Gly 1620 1630

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Gln Ser Tyr Asp Ser Asp Leu Ile Gly Ile Glu Asp Leu Pro Gln Phe 1665 1670 1680

Arg Asn Asp Tyr Phe Pro Pro Glu Glu Gly Ser Ser Met Arg Gly Val 1685 1690 1695

Val Asn Glu His Val Pro Glu Ser Ile Ala Asn His Asn Asn Asn Phe 1700 1710

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ctgtaacatc actagagaag tgagaactgc aagatcatga g atg gcg gtc gat gtg Met Ala Val Asp Val

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			_		_	_	_		gtc Val	_			_		_	368	
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		_	_					_	gac Asp 175							704	
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_									aga Arg					_		848	
	_		_		_		_		gat Asp			_			_	896	
_		_	_	Lys	Lys	Ser	Leu	Āsp	tac Tyr 255	Glu	Glu	Asn	Pro		His	944	
		_	_	Thr	_		_		tta Leu							992	
Val	Met	Met 280	Val	Ğlu	Val	Glu	Asn 285	Val	gaa Glu	His	Arg	Asn 290	Pro	Arg	Trp	1040	
Met	Glu 295	Ile	Phe	Āla	Val	Gln 300	Gln	Phe	gat Asp	Ğlu	Lуз 305	Gln	Ala	ГÀЗ	Ser	1088	
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	_				Lys	_		_	atc Ile 415			_	_	_		1424
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				_	-				ttc Phe	_		_	_			1760
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		gcc Ala	_						_		_				_	2192		
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		aag Lys				_			_	_				_	_	2384		
		gtc Val				_		_	_	_	_	_	_		_	2432		
		gat Asp 760	_		_			_			_	_		_	_	2480		
		aca Thr														2528		
	Thr	ctg Leu		_		_	_	_						_	_	2576		
_		acc Thr	_	_			_	_			_	_				2624		
		tac Tyr	_			_	_				_			_		2672		
_	_	gat Asp 840	_			_			_			_	_		_	2720		
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	Thr	tac Tyr													_	2816		
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950 955	960	965	
ttg gac aga gac gga gag Leu Asp Arg Asp Gly Glu 970			3104
gtc gat aac ttg gaa ggc Val Asp Asn Leu Glu Gly 985			3152
acg gag gtg cgt gtt ata Thr Glu Val Arg Val Ile 1000	_		3200
cta cca att cct gat ggc Leu Pro Ile Pro Asp Gly 1015			3248
gag gga aaa cgc att cca Glu Gly Lys Arg Ile Pro 1030 103	Pro Glu Ile His Ala	a His Asp Arg Asp Glu	3296
cca ttc aac gac aac tct Pro Phe Asn Asp Asn Ser 1050			3344
ttg atc aat aga gac atc Leu Ile Asn Arg Asp Ile 1065			3392
acg att gat gat ctc gat Thr Ile Asp Asp Leu Asp 1080			3440
acc atg gac ctt aga gga Thr Met Asp Leu Arg Gly 1095			3488
gcg ttt gac cac ggt ttc Ala Phe Asp His Gly Phe 1110 111	Pro Met Leu Asp Sei	Phe Glu Thr Tyr Gln	3536
cta acc gtc agg cca tac Leu Thr Val Arg Pro Tyr 1130	•		3584
act cct ggc tca acc atc Thr Pro Gly Ser Thr Ile 1145			3632
ggt atg ctg gct ctg gct Gly Met Leu Ala Leu Ala 1160			3680
ctc tct gcc act gat gaa Leu Ser Ala Thr Asp Glu 1175			3728
tcc ata gct gga aac gat Ser Ile Ala Gly Asn Asp 1190 119	Glu Ala Ala Glu Tyr	Phe Asn Val Leu Asn	3776
gac ggt gac aac tca gca Asp Gly Asp Asn Ser Ala 1210			3824
ggc gtc cag cag ttt gag Gly Val Gln Gln Phe Glu 1225			3872
gag ccg gga cct agg agt Glu Pro Gly Pro Arg Ser 1240			3920
atg acg cag gga gac ccc Met Thr Gln Gly Asp Pro 1255			3968
ttc gtt gaa aag gaa gct Phe Val Glu Lys Glu Ala			4016

go gat gac ccc asa aac tac ag gg tgt atg gac gac tgc cat acc atc la Asp Asp Pro Lys Asm Tyr Arg Cys Met Asp Asp Cys His Thr Ile 1290 1290 1290 1290 1200 1200 1200 1200			-con	tinued	
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res Cili thr Asm Val I le tyr Leu Leu Lys Pro Leu Rap Arg Ser Cin 1330 rag gag cag tac agg gtc gtg gtg gtg gcg gct tcc aac acg cot ggc ggc lin diu din Tyr Arg Val Val Val Val Ala Ala Ser Ann Thr Pro Gily Gily 1335 1346 1347 1348		Ile Val Asp Gly Asn Asp		Ala Val Glu	4112
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the ser thr Leu Ser Ser Ser Leu Leu Thr Val Thr 11e Gly Val Arg 1350 1355 1365 1365 gas goa sac cot aga cog atc ttc gas agt gas ttt tac aca got ggc llu Ala Awn Pro Arg Pro Ite Phe Clu Ser Clu Phe Tyr Thr Ala Cly 1370 1370 1390 get tta cac acc gat agc ata cac aag gag ctc gtt tac ctg gog gca ral Leu His Thr Amp Ser Ite His Lye Glu Leu Val Tyr Leu Ala Ala 1365 1390 gat tta cac acc gat agc ata cac aag gag ctc gtt tac ctg gog gca ral Leu His Thr Amp Ser Ite His Lye Glu Leu Val Tyr Leu Ala Ala 1365 1390 atac cat tca gaa ggg ctt cct atc gtc tac tog ata gat caa gas acc ray His Ser Glu Gly Leu Pro Ite Val Tyr Ser Ite Amp Glu Glu Thr 1400 atg aaa ata gac gag tog ttg caa aca gtt gtg gag gac gcc ttc gac lete Lye Ite Amp Glu Ser Leu Glu Thr Val Val Glu Amp Ala Phe Amp 1420 1420 att aac cct gca acc gga gtc ata tog ctg acc gtg gat gat caa gag gag gca gca gca gat ttc gac ttc gag gtg gtg gt agt gac acc gct ral let His Gly Val Ite Ser Leu Amp Phe Glu Pro Thr Ser 1430 1435 gag gog gdt gat gat ata tog tag gat gat gat act gac acc gct ral let His Gly Ser Phe Amp Phe Glu Val Val Ala Ser Amp Thr Arg 1450 1470 gga gog gdt gat oag gca aaa gtg tca att tac atg ata tcg act gcc gly Ala Ser Amp Amp Ala Lye Val Ser Ite Tyr Met Ite Ser Thr Arg 1465 gga gag gd gd gd gca ata acc aac ag gag gct ga gtt acc arg Amp Amp Ala Dhe Leu Phe Tyr Amr Thr Glu Ala Glu Val Amp Glu 1480 1485 aga aga aat ttc att gac caa acc gcg gct gat gt acc arg acc gac gct gct cct gct cct gcc acc gcc gct gat gas acc act tca tac acc acc gac gct acc gcc gcc gac gat gat gcc acc arg gag gag gag tac acc gag ctc acc gac gcc acc gcc gcc gat gat arg Amp Phe Ite Ala Glu Thr Phe Ala Amp Ala Amp Gly Val Ite 1500 1500 acc gcc gac gat acc acc aga gct cac tca tac acc gac gcc gcc gac gat gcc acc gcc gac gat acc acc acc acc acc tca acc acc acc gcc gcc gac tat att gag gga tat ttt acc gac acc gcc acc gcc gac gac gac gcc acc gac gat acc gcc acc gcc gcc gac tat att gag gga tac tca act gcc acc gcc gcc gac gac gac gcc gcc gcc gcc	Gln Glu Gln	Tyr Arg Val Val Val Ala	Ala Ser Asn Thr	33 33	4208
itu Ala Aen Pro Arg Pro Ile Phe diu Ser diu Phe Tyr Thr Ala diy 1370 ste tta cac acc gat age ata cac aag gag otc git tac etg gog goa fal Leu His Thr Aep Ser Ile His Lye Glu Leu Val Tyr Leu Ala Ala 1385 saa cat toa gaa ggg ott cet atc get tac tog ata gat caa gaa acc sye His Ser Glu Gly Leu Pro Ile Val Tyr Ser Ile Asp Gln Glu Thr 1400 stg aaa ata gac gag tog ttg caa aca gtt gtg gag gac gcc ttc gac stet Lye Ile Aep Glu Ser Leu Gln Thr Val Val Glu Aep Ala Phe Aep 1415 satt aac tot goa acc gag gtc ata tog ctg aac ttc cag cca aca tot fle Aen Ser Ala Thr Gly Val Ile Ser Leu Aen Phe Gln Pro Thr Ser 1430 stt aac tot goa acc gag gtc ata tog ctg act tc cag cca aca tot fle Aen Ser Ala Thr Gly Val Ile Ser Leu Aen Phe Gln Pro Thr Ser 1430 stt ago gag gt gat oga gag ttc ga gtg gtg gtg gt agt gac acc gog t fal Wet His Gly Ser Phe Aep Phe Glu Val Val Ala Ser Aep Thr Arg 1450 sta aga gag gag gag gag gag gag gag gag g		Leu Ser Ser Leu Leu '	Thr Val Thr Ile	Gly Val Arg	4256
And Leu His Thr Amp Ser Ile His Lys Giu Leu Val Tyr Leu Ala Ala 1395 Ana cat toa gaa geg cut cot atc gto tac tog ata gat caa gaa acc Lys His Ser Glu Gly Leu Pro Ile Val Tyr Ser Ile Amp Gln Glu Thr 1400 Atg ama at a gac gag tog ttg caa aca gtt gtg gaa gac gcc ttc gac Atg ama ata gac gag tog ttg caa aca gtt gtg gaa gac gcc ttc gac Atg ama ata gac gag tog ttg caa aca gtt gtg gaa gac gcc ttc gac Atg ama ata gac gag tog ttg caa aca gtt gtg gaa gac cac aca tct Atg ama ata gac gag tog tac gac aca aca tct Atg ama ata gac gag tog tac gac tac gac aca tcc Atg ama ata gac gag tog tac acc gag gtg gtg gcd agt gac aca tcc Atg ama ata gac gag aca aca gg gtg gtg gcd agt gac acc Atg ama gac gac agt cat gac ttc gag gtg gtg gcd agt gac acc Atg ama gac gac agt gat cac gac tac gag gtg gtg gcd agt gac acc Atg ama gac gac gat gac gac ama gtg tog and tac acc Atg ama gac gac gat gac gac ama gtg tog acc Atg ama gac gac gat gac gac ama gtg tog acc Atg ama gac gac gac ama gtg tog acc Atg ama gac gac gac ama gtg tog acc Atg ama gac gac gac ama gtg tog acc Atg ama gac gac gac ama gac gac gac gac gac Atg ama gac gac ttc ctg tc tac acc Atg ama gac gac tac gac gac acc Atg ama gac gac tac gac gac gac gac gac gac gac Atg ama gac gac gac Atg ama gac gac gac gac Atg ama Atg		Pro Arg Pro Ile Phe Glu	Ser Glu Phe Tyr	Thr Ala Gly	4304
Att aga at a far gag agt get to gaz at a gag to get at at aga gag agt gat gaz aga gag agt gat cga aga ggg ggg ggg ggg ggg ggg gggg g		Thr Asp Ser Ile His Lys		Leu Ala Ala	4352
Net Lys Ile App Glu Ser Leu Gln Thr Val Val Glu App Ala Phe App 1415 Att aac tct gca acc gga gtc ata tcg ctg act tc cag cca aca tct att aca tct gca acc gga gtc ttc gag gtg gtg gct agt gac acg gct 4496 Att aac tct gca acc gga agt ttc gac ttc gag gtg gtg gct agt gac acg gct 4454 Att acc gac acg gc agt ttc gac ttc gag gtg gtg gct agt gac acg gct 4454 Ala Met His Gly Ser Phe App Phe Glu Val Ala Ser App Thr Arg 1450 Aga gcg agt gat cga gca aaa gtg tca att tac atg ata tcg act cgc aly Ala Ser App Arg Ala Lys Val Ser Ile Tyr Met Ile Ser Thr Arg 1475 Att aga gta gcc ttc ctg ttc tac aac acg gaa gct gaa gtt aac gag gt val Ala Phe Leu Phe Tyr Apn Thr Glu Ala Glu Val Apn Glu Val Apn Glu Val Apn He Ile App App App App Ala Apr App App App App App App App App App	Lys His Ser	Glu Gly Leu Pro Ile Val	Tyr Ser Ile Asp	Gln Glu Thr	4400
The Asm Ser Ala Thr Gly Val Ile Ser Leu Asm Phe Gln Pro Thr Ser 1445 The atg cac ggc agt ttc gac ttc gag gtg gtg gtc agt agt acc acc gct yell and this Gly Ser Phe Asp Phe Glu Val Val Ala Ser Asp Thr Arg 1450 The atg acc ggc agt gat cga gca asa gtg tca att tac atg ata tcg act cgc gly Ala Ser Asp Arg Ala Lys Val Ser Ile Tyr Met Ile Ser Thr Arg 1465 The atg agt agt acc ttc ctg ttc tac asc acg gaa gct gaa gtt acc gag gaa gtt agc gag gag agt acc acc acc acc acc acc acc gaa acc acc	Met Lys Ile	Asp Glu Ser Leu Gln Thr	Val Val Glu Asp	3	4448
And Met His Gly Ser Phe Asp Phe Glu Val Val Ala Ser Asp Thr Arg 1450 gga gcg agt gat cga gca aaa gtg tca att tac atg ata tcg act cgc sily Ala Ser Asp Arg Ala Lys Val Ser Ile Tyr Met Ile Ser Thr Arg 1470 gtt aga gta gcc ttc ctg ttc tac aac acg gaa gct gaa gtt aac gag 4640 gtt aga gta gcc ttc ctg ttc tac aac acg gaa gct gaa gtt aac gag 4640 gtt aga gta gcc ttc ctg ttc tac aac acg gaa gct gaa gtt aac gag 4640 gtt aga gta gcc ttc ctg ttc tac aac acg gaa gct gaa gtt aac gag 4640 gtt aga gta act ttc att gca caa acg ttc gcc aac gcg ttt ggt atg aca 1490 aga aga aat ttc att gca caa acg ttc gcc aac gcg ttt ggt atg aca acg gt aac acg gas acg acg gt acg acg gcg gt atc gcg gcf atc 1500 gga ac ata gac agc gtg ctg ccg gct acc gcg caac gcg gtg atf 1650 gcg aac ata gac agc gtg ctg ccg gct acc gcg acc gcg gtg atf 1650 gcg gag ggg tac aca gaa ctc cag gct cac ttc ata cga gac gac cag 4784 arg Glu Gly Tyr Thr Glu Leu Gln Ala His Phe Ile Arg Asp Asp Gln 1530 gcg gag gcg cca acc gac gac tat att gag gga tta ttt acc gaa acc aca acc acc acc acc acc gcc g		Ala Thr Gly Val Ile Ser	Leu Asn Phe Gln	Pro Thr Ser	4496
All All Ser Asp Arg Ala Lys Val Ser Ile Tyr Met Ile Ser Thr Arg 1475 get aga gta gcc ttc ctg ttc tac aac acg gaa gct gaa gtt aac gag 4640 All Ala Phe Leu Phe Tyr Asn Thr Glu Ala Glu Val Asn Glu 1480 aga aga aat ttc att gca caa acg ttc gcc aac ggt tt ggt atg aca 4688 arg Arg Asn Phe Ile Ala Gln Thr Phe Ala Asn Ala Phe Gly Met Thr 1495 agt aac ata gac agc gtg ctg ccg gct acc gac gcc aac ggc gtg att Asp Ala Asn Gly Val Ile 1500 agg gag ggg tac aca gaa ctc cag gct cac ttc ata cga gac gac gag ggg ttg 1525 agg gag ggg tac aca gaa ctc cag gct cac ttc ata cga gac gac acg 4784 arg Glu Gly Tyr Thr Glu Leu Gln Ala His Phe Ile Arg Asp Asp Gln 1530 agg ggg tca gcc gcc tat att gag gga tta ttt acg gaa ctc aat aca 2900 arg gtg cca gcc gac tat att gag gga tta ttt acg gaa ctc aat aca 2900 arg gtg cac acc acc gac gac tat att acc gac gcc acc ttc ata cac gac ctc acc acc gcc gtg ctc acc acc gcc gcc gtg ctc acc acc gcc gcc gcc gcc gcc gcc gcc gc		Gly Ser Phe Asp Phe Glu	Val Val Ala Ser	Asp Thr Arg	4544
Arg Val Ala Phe Leu Phe Tyr Asn Thr Glu Ala Glu Val Asn Glu 1480 Arg Arg Asn Phe Ile Ala Gln Thr Phe Ala Asn Ala Phe Gly Met Thr 1495 Arg Arg Asn Phe Ile Ala Gln Thr Phe Ala Asn Ala Phe Gly Met Thr 1495 Arg aca ata gac agc gtg ctg ccg gct acc gac gcc acc ggc gtg att 24736 Arg Asn Ile Asp Ser Val Leu Pro Ala Thr Asp Ala Asn Gly Val Ile 1510 Arg Glu Gly Tyr Thr Glu Leu Gln Ala His Phe Ile Arg Asp Asp Gln 1530 Arg gtg cca gcc gac tat att gag gga ttt act acg gac cca act aca 270 Val Pro Ala Asp Tyr Ile Glu Gly Leu Phe Thr Glu Leu Asn Thr 1545 Arg ggg gag gag gag gag ggg tcg gg act cag cag tat acc gag cac act acc acc acc acc acc acc acc acc		Asp Arg Ala Lys Val Ser	_	Ser Thr Arg	4592
Arg Arg Arg Arg Arg arg age gtg ctg ccg gct acc gac gcc aac ggc gtg att to the state of the stat	Val Arg Val	Ala Phe Leu Phe Tyr Asn '	Thr Glu Ala Glu	Val Asn Glu	4640
Tys Asn Ile Asp Ser Val Leu Pro Ala Thr Asp Ala Asn Gly Val Ile 1510 1515 1520 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1526 1527 1528 1528 1529 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1525 1526 1527 1528 1528 1528 1528 4784 4880	Arg Arg Asn	Phe Ile Ala Gln Thr Phe	Ala Asn Ala Phe	55 5	4688
Arg Glu Gly Tyr Thr Glu Leu Gln Ala His Phe Ile Arg Asp Asp Gln 1530 ceg gtg cca gcc gac tat att gag gga tta ttt acg gaa ctc aat aca 282 Pro Val Pro Ala Asp Tyr Ile Glu Gly Leu Phe Thr Glu Leu Asn Thr 1545 ctg cgt gac atc aga gag gta ctg agt act cag caa ttg acg cta ctg Leu Arg Asp Ile Arg Glu Val Leu Ser Thr Gln Gln Leu Thr Leu Leu 1560 gac ttt gcg gcg gga ggg tcg gca gtg ctg ccc ggc gga gag tac gcg Asp Phe Ala Ala Gly Gly Ser Ala Val Leu Pro Gly Gly Glu Tyr Ala 1575 cta gcg gtg tac atc ctc gcc ggc atc gca gcg tta ctc gcc gtc atc 4876	•	Asp Ser Val Leu Pro Ala	Thr Asp Ala Asn	Gly Val Ile	4736
Pro Val Pro Ala Asp Tyr Ile Glu Gly Leu Phe Thr Glu Leu Asn Thr 1545 ttg cgt gac atc aga gag gta ctg agt act cag caa ttg acg cta ctg Leu Arg Asp Ile Arg Glu Val Leu Ser Thr Gln Gln Leu Thr Leu Leu 1560 gac ttt gcg gcg gga ggg tcg gca gtg ctg ccc ggc gga gag tac gcg Asp Phe Ala Ala Gly Gly Ser Ala Val Leu Pro Gly Gly Glu Tyr Ala 1575 tta gcg gtg tac atc ctc gcc ggc atc gca gcg tta ctc gcc gtc atc 4880 4880 4928 4928 4928		Tyr Thr Glu Leu Gln Ala	His Phe Ile Arg	Asp Asp Gln	4784
Leu Arg Asp Ile Arg Glu Val Leu Ser Thr Gln Gln Leu Thr Leu Leu 1560 1565 1570 gac ttt gcg gcg gga ggg tcg gca gtg ctg ccc ggc gga gag tac gcg 4928 Asp Phe Ala Ala Gly Gly Ser Ala Val Leu Pro Gly Gly Glu Tyr Ala 1575 1580 1585 cta gcg gtg tac atc ctc gcc ggc atc gca gcg tta ctc gcc gtc atc 4976		Ala Asp Tyr Ile Glu Gly		Leu Asn Thr	4832
Asp Phe Ala Ala Gly Gly Ser Ala Val Leu Pro Gly Gly Glu Tyr Ala 1575 1580 1585 eta geg gtg tae ate ete gee gge ate gea geg tta ete gee gte ate 4976	Leu Arg Asp	Ile Arg Glu Val Leu Ser '	Thr Gln Gln Leu	Thr Leu Leu	4880
	Asp Phe Ala	Ala Gly Gly Ser Ala Val	Leu Pro Gly Gly	5 5 5	4928
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gt ctc q ys Leu A	_		Ile	_				Arg		_		_	Asn	5024
gg cgc a	_	Āla					Asp	_		_	_	Ile		5072
cca aac o Pro Asn I			_	_		Leu				_	His		_	5120
ct ggt t Pro Gly 3 1655					Asn	_	_	_	_	Thr				5168
gac act a Asp Thr I L670	_	_	_	Ser	_	_	_		Asp	_	_	_	_	5216
gaa cag t Slu Gln I		_	Āsp					Glu		_			Ser	5264
tg aat t Leu Asn I	_	Arg					Thr					Phe		5312
gta aac t Val Asn S	_					Glu					Gln		_	5360
gt taaad Ser	ctaaat	acact	ttta	at ca	actto	gcata	a gad	cttat	igta	ttta	aataa	att		5413
tacattt	tt taca	ttaaa	ıt at	aaat	gttt	t tat	atgt	taat	aata	agtgt	iga t	caaaa	atgtac	5473
gtaacaat	ca acat	agctg	gt to	gtago	gttcg	g taa	aataa	acat	acto	cgtaa	atg t	tataa	agtgtt	5533
itgtttata	at atag	aaata	aa aa	aatat	taaa	a tat	taaa	aaaa	aaaa	aaaaa	aaa a	aaaa	aaaaa	5592
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et Ala V 1	Val Asp	Val 5	Arg	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ala 10	Thr	Leu	Leu	Val	Leu 15	Thr	
hr Ala :	Thr Ala 20	Gln	Arg	Asp	Arg	Сув 25	Gly	Tyr	Met	Val	Glu 30	Ile	Pro	
rg Pro A	Asp Arg 35	Pro	Asp	Phe	Pro 40	Pro	Gln	Asn	Phe	Asp 45	Gly	Leu	Thr	
rp Ala (Gln Gln	Pro	Leu	Leu 55	Pro	Ala	Glu	Asp	Arg 60	Glu	Glu	Val	Сув	
Jeu Asn A	Asp Tyr	Glu	Pro 70	Asp	Pro	Trp	Ser	Asn 75	Asn	His	Gly	Asp	Gln 80	
arg Ile :	Tyr Met	Glu 85	Glu	Glu	Ile	Glu	Gly 90	Pro	Val	Val	Ile	Ala 95	Lys	
le Asn :	Tyr Gln 100	-	Asn	Thr	Pro	Pro 105	Gln	Ile	Arg	Leu	Pro 110	Phe	Arg	
al Gly A	Ala Ala 115	His	Met	Leu	Gly 120	Ala	Glu	Ile	Arg	Glu 125	Tyr	Pro	Asp	
la Thr (Gly Asp	Trp	Tyr	Leu 135	Val	Ile	Thr	Gln	Arg 140	Gln	Asp	Tyr	Glu	
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Ser	Leu	Val	Val	Thr 165	Val	Arg	Leu	Asp	Ile 170	Val	Asn	Ile	Asp	Asp 175	Asn
Ala	Pro	Ile	Ile 180	Glu	Met	Leu	Glu	Pro 185	Сув	Asn	Leu	Pro	Glu 190	Leu	Val
Glu	Pro	His 195	Val	Thr	Glu	Cys	Lys 200	Tyr	Ile	Val	Ser	Asp 205	Ala	Asp	Gly
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83	
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- سرپ	Jaac		- 224		y		- Jyak	90	- 5 400		~ສສ'	- 5 \	י אכנ	(
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32

That which is claimed:

- 1. A method for screening candidate ligands to identify ligands that bind to an *Ostrinia nubialis* insect receptor polypeptide, said method comprising:
 - a) providing at least one *Ostrinia nubialis* insect receptor polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and,
 - ii) the amino acid sequence of a sequence variant of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said sequence variant has Bt toxin binding activity and has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - b) contacting said polypeptide with a candidate ligand and a control ligand under conditions promoting binding of the candidate ligand or the control ligand to the polypeptide, wherein the control ligand is a Cry1A toxin; and
 - c) determining the binding characteristics of said candidate ligand, relative to said control ligand, wherein the binding characteristics are selected from the group consisting of binding affinity, binding site specificity, association rate, and dissociation rate, and thereby identifying a candidate ligand that binds to the *Ostrinia nubialis* insect receptor polypeptide.
- 2. A method for screening candidate ligands to identify ligands that bind an *Ostrinia nubialis* insect receptor polypeptide, said method comprising:

- a) providing cells expressing at least one *Ostrinia nubialis* insect receptor polypeptide wherein said polypeptide comprises a toxin binding domain and is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and,
 - ii) the amino acid sequence of a sequence variant of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said sequence variant has Bt toxin binding activity and has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and,
- b) contacting said cells with a candidate ligand and a control ligand under conditions that promote binding of the candidate ligand or the control ligand to the polypeptide, wherein the control ligand is a Cry1A toxin; and
- c) determining the binding characteristics of said candidate ligand, relative to said control ligand, wherein the binding characteristics are selected from the group consisting of binding affinity, binding site specificity, association rate, and dissociation rate, and thereby identifying a candidate ligand that binds to the *Ostrinia nubialis* insect receptor polypeptide.
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said method further comprises the step of determining the viability of the cells contacted with the candidate ligand relative to the viability of the cells contacted with the control ligand.

* * * * *